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Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Arab League Envoy Discusses Iranian Air Raid

NC2705160593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1436 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 May (MENA)—Ambassador Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative at the Arab League, today met with Ambassador 'Adnan 'Imran, acting Arab League secretary general. Ambassador Najm said that he raised the issue of the recent Iranian aggression against Iraq. He added that he informed the acting secretary general that such an aggression constitutes a violation of the cease-fire agreement between the two countries and a serious threat to Iraq's national security and to the security and peace of the entire region.

Najm pointed out that Iran's air raid last Tuesday [24 May] on two towns east of Baghdad caused serious material losses. He explained that Iraq wants to establish good neighborly relations with the countries in the region, based on noninterference in the internal affairs of any state. He emphasized Iraq's right, according to the UN Charter and international law, to legitimate self-defense and its right to demand compensation.

Najm added that the recent Iranian aggression confirms that Iran continues to threaten the security and peace of the countries in the region and the Arab national security.

He noted that they also discussed a number of Arab issues, particularly the efforts being made within the framework of the joint Arab action and the resolutions recently adopted by the Arab League council regarding water resources and the issues of Arab national security.

Maghreb Union Countries Plan Press Archives Center

LD2705140693 Rabat MAP in English 1310 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Algiers, May 27 (APS/POOL/UMA)—Experts of information archives of the countries of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) rounded off here Tuesday [25 May] the draft statute of the project-center of UMA press archives. The center will contribute to set a joint information policy of UMA countries with special emphasis on press archives and to the creation of local press archives centers in the Maghreb.

The experts also discussed another document compiled by the Algerian party on the motivations and reasons behind the idea of setting up the Maghreban center and on other issues relating to press databases and data banks and the standardization of terminology and vocabulary. The different documents will be presented for approval to the coming meeting of Maghreban information departments which will also look into necessary aid and assistance to carry out the projects.

The creation of the Maghreban press archive center was recommended by the Algiers meeting of UMA ministers of culture and information held in 1991.

Palestinian Affairs

Delegation To Attend Washington Preliminary Talks

TA2705165493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 27 May 93

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Excerpt] The members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks held a lengthy and comprehensive discussion this afternoon about the U.S. invitation to preliminary talks in Washington. At the end of the session, Faysal al-Husayni announced that the Palestinians have accepted the invitation and will be going to Washington to discuss the document of principles with U.S. Administration officials. Noting that they would be going to Washington to that end, al-Husayni emphasized that a date had not yet been set for their departure. He added that had Israel not closed the territories and stepped up the measures against the population, the ninth round of talks could have gone on for a whole month. A document could have been signed at the end of it which might have constituted a breakthrough in the entire process, he said.

The members of the Palestinian delegation convened at Orient House in East Jerusalem. Upon emerging from the meeting, they pointed out that the defense establishment's decision to renew the gestures and release detainees on the eve of the Muslim holidays has somewhat eased the situation and helped those supporting the continuation of the peace talks. Some 245 detainees were released today: 162 from Qezi'ot, of which 74 are inhabitants of the Gaza Strip; 51 from Megiddo; and 32 from al-Fari'ah prison, all of them inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria. About 50 others will be released within the next few days from the al-Zahiriyah lock-up installation south of Hebron.

It should be pointed out that the Palestinians believe the decision to release the detainees was adopted in the wake of U.S. pressure and Amnesty International's sharp criticism about the situation in the territories. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi Discusses Issues

TA2705181193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] The Palestinian delegation this afternoon reportedly agreed to travel to Washington for preliminary talks with administration officials on the peace process. The decision was taken in response to an invitation extended by the U.S. State Department.

While discussing some of the issues they would like to raise with the Americans, spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi, in this interview with Amy Rhodes, would not confirm their acceptance until the Americans had been informed.

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi] Well, we still haven't relayed our response to the Americans yet. We're saying that we are studying the invitation; we are working and preparing for it. We hope that once a decision is given we will go in order to discuss the declaration of principles, as well as to discuss the American role and the framework for further negotiations.

[Rhodes] When do you plan relaying this decision?

['Ashrawi] Well, we have several basic issues that we want to deal with before and in preparation for the response, and we will be sending those to the Americans—some queries and questions, plus some basic issues that have to be addressed adequately.

[Rhodes] Issues that have to be addressed prior to your going, or when you're there?

['Ashrawi] Either prior or when we are there, but we want to set the agenda, the framework, the substance—things that have to be discussed. We always say that meetings are not an end unto themselves. Meetings are a means, and so we are working on the substance and the objectives of this meeting.

[Rhodes] So does this represent any change in your attitude towards going back to the talks?

['Ashrawi] No, no, not at all. As you know, the PLO had declared earlier that it has no objections to pursuing a dialogue with the Americans on these issues, on the declaration of principles, and we are still working within that PLO position. But, as I said, we still have to work on clarifying some issues and preparing some papers and issues of substance.

[Rhodes] Can you give me any idea what these issues of substance that you are talking about, what you are referring to?

['Ashrawi] Well, some of them deal with the American role per se, and others deal with the substance of negotiation in terms of the terms of reference themselves, actually. Because we do have an American policy position, and we do have terms of reference for the peace process, and we want to make sure that the (?framework upholds) within the parameters of these terms of reference. And then we will deal with the declaration of principles. [end recording]

Denies Receipt of Saudi Aid

TA2705151693 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 27 May 93 p 2

[Text] Ramallah, QUDS PRESS—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokesman of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has denied the receipt of financial aid promised by Saudi Arabia to Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

In a statement to QUDS PRESS, Dr. 'Ashrawi said that the Saudi Government had agreed to allocate $10 million for the occupied Arab territories. It deposited this sum in the Jerusalem Fund, which belongs to the Islamic Conference Organization. However, Dr. 'Ashrawi denied that the Palestinians had received any of these funds so far.

Dr. 'Ashrawi pointed out that "despite the recent meeting of the Islamic states foreign ministers in Karachi, the ministers of the seven member states in the Jerusalem Fund did not meet to approve the transfer of these funds."

Dr. 'Ashrawi said that "the United States tried to help in mending the rift between Saudi Arabia and the PLO and urged Saudi Arabia to lift the boycott" imposed by the Gulf states on the PLO since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis.

Dr. 'Ashrawi denied that this issue had any connection to the negotiating positions and the negotiating process. She denied any link between the Saudi pledge to pay these allocations and the Palestinian delegation's decision to participate in the ninth round. Dr. 'Ashrawi said, however, that "the Palestinian people are facing different kinds of pressure from different sources," without clarifying the nature or sources of this pressure.

PLO Participation 'Certainty'

JN2805064193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 May 93

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah from the occupied territories]

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, has confirmed the Palestinians will not stay away from the forthcoming round of negotiations. He said he supports a comprehensive national dialogue on the peace process. Al-Husayni said the U.S. invitation to the next round of negotiations will not be sent before the Arab cordon states meeting in early June.

At a meeting with Palestinian journalists at the headquarters of the negotiating delegation in Jerusalem, Faysal al-Husayni said he is convinced that official PLO participation in the negotiations is a certainty. He said, We are getting closer to the time when the PLO will sit at the negotiating table. We are now convinced that this is a certainty.

Al-Husayni confirmed that the Palestinians wish to pursue a dialogue with the U.S. side. He said: With the U.S. sponsor, we will study the Palestinian working paper submitted at the ninth round to work out an acceptable formula for the declaration of joint principles on the transitional phase.

Abu-Sharif Urges IDF Withdrawal in Territories

TA2705172293 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 27 May 93 pp 1, 11

[By Bassam Abu-Sharif: "So That the Chance of Peace in the Middle East Does Not Slip Away"]

[Text] The peace process became more intricate in the ninth round of talks because of the Israeli Government's stance rejecting approval of a declaration of principles comprising substantive issues between the Palestinians and the Israelis relating to the peace process. The Palestinians insisted on a working paper comprising the principles and bases to which U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher had announced the U.S. Administration's commitment. Most important of those are:

—Transfer of authority to a Palestinian self-government with powers.

—That the authority of this self-government be a legislative council elected under international supervision.

—That implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 includes all the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem.

—That the interim transitional stage be linked to the final stage, the stage of national independence, or, as the Americans call it, the full political rights of the Palestinian people.

As a result of Israeli intransigence, the PLO suspended work in the subcommittees formed to discuss human rights, land, and self-government. Undoubtedly, what complicated matters further and led them almost to deadlock was the Israeli Government's escalation of terrorist violence against Palestinians, the rising number of dead and wounded during the negotiations, and the U.S. Administration's nonrenewal of relations with the PLO, particularly after the U.S. Administration had announced that it would be a full partner in the peace process.

Today, with the approaching date of the 10th round of talks, matters seem still more complex. Despite the continued dialogue between the U.S. Administration and the Palestinians, Israelis public opinion does not see any indications of a breakthrough. This has created a feeling of frustration in both Palestinian and Israeli circles. This grave situation, however, does not make us at all pessimistic, reaching the conclusion that the peace process has reached a dead end. On the contrary, whenever matters get complicated and whenever a sense of fear pervades and the peace process seems on the verge of collapse, the feeling among Israelis and Palestinians about the importance of establishing peace increases. This is because the collapse of the peace process means the elimination of the hope harbored by Israelis and Palestinians for building a prosperous future for their coming generations—a stable and safe future, not only devoid of violence but also full of cooperation.

Hence, out of concern for this hope and future, we launch a new initiative within the overall framework of the peace process. We propose disengagement from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to which Israeli forces will withdraw from densely populated areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and will be replaced by UN or multinational forces, or even U.S. forces. Undoubtedly, such a step will foster a positive climate, will reduce to a large extent the violence in the occupied territories, and will open new vistas for advancing the peace process at the required pace whereby results will be produced before the end of 1993.

This new initiative, however, cannot be implemented unless the U.S. Administration uses its weight not only as a full partner in the peace process but as a country having great influence over Israel.

We are very hopeful that with President Clinton's blessing, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will take practical steps for reaching agreement on a declaration of principles and pushing the Palestinians' initiative toward implementation. This is because only such a move by the U.S. Administration will maintain the momentum of the peace process and prevent its collapse.

We also hope that President Clinton will put an end to the suspension of relations with the PLO leadership and that a new phase that reflects positively on the Middle East and on stability in the region will begin.

This is a rare opportunity for all of the parties. Peace in the Middle East is not only a Palestinian interest but also an Israeli and international one, especially for the United States. This requires from everyone, particularly the U.S. Administration, an effort and eagerness to continue the talks seriously and constructively, aimed at achieving tangible results for the transfer of power to a Palestinian self-government, because the alternative will be the spread of violence throughout and perhaps outside the Middle East, as well.

Egypt's Role in Peace Process Criticized

TA2705192293 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 27 May 93 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Toward the 10th Round"]

[Excerpts] All indications so far affirm that the 10th round of talks might be held in Washington in the first half of June and that this round will determine the fate of the peace talks and the clarity of the solutions that might be reached for solving the region's problems. News agencies pointed out that the Egyptian regime has dispatched Usamah al-Baz, the president's adviser on political affairs, to the United States and the United Nations to put forward new ideas that would advance the current political process, especially since Egypt under Mubarak's leadership—as Egyptian ruling circles believe—can play an important role. It is not only a partner in the negotiations, but also enjoys a decisive role or trait in these

negotiations due to the fact that Egypt is the only side that can talk with all the participating sides in these negotiations.

The Egyptian regime, led by Mubarak and al-Baz, may have the right to claim such a trait. It might also have the right to present to public opinion and officials in the talks its special plan to solve the problems and political knots stemming from the Palestinian question. However, any plan presented by any Arab regime must neither deviate from the overall Arab framework nor be governed by self-interests. This cannot be said about the official Egyptian stance. [passage omitted]

The remaining basic question is: Will the convocation of the 10th round be in the interest of the Palestinian cause and the Arab cause in general?

It is clear that Rabin's government is unwilling to advance this peace process if it is based on the principle of "land for peace." Rabin's government fabricated the recent cabinet crisis in order to pressure the negotiating Palestinian side and wrest numerous positions and gains. This notion is based on the fact that consecutive governments did not make any concessions to the Arabs, nor did they at any time try to reach agreement with them. Those governments relied on their military power and their alliance with Western regimes all of the time. This was the case in 1956, 1967, and 1982, and this is the situation now. The only government that signed any peace agreement with the Arab world, regardless of its benefit to Arab causes, was the Likud government.

Rabin's government is aware of this fact, comprehends it, and acts upon its precepts. Hence, this government, which is implementing a policy of starvation and capitulation against our Palestinian people, is not expected to talk with the leaders of these people on equal footing in Washington. This is where the Egyptian regime enters to present its views. It is attempting to achieve its own gains, on one hand, and on the other hand, it depicts itself as the principal element in achieving peace.

This is the reality, or at least the notions closest to reality, that all of us should think about and take into consideration, especially as we move toward holding the 10th round of negotiations.

Left-Wing Groups Hold 'National Dialogue'

TA2705161293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 May 93 p A3

[Report by Yosi Torpstein, correspondent in the territories]

[Text] On 25 May, Palestinian left-wing organizations held a conference at which a "national dialogue on the peace process" was conducted. The conference was attended by representatives of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], as well as a representative of the Palestinian People's Party [PPP], the former Communist Party.

The PPP suspended the participation of its two representatives in the Palestinian delegation to the ninth round of peace negotiations over its objection to the terms that the Palestinian delegation found acceptable.

Besides the PPP, other members of the Palestinian delegation, including chief delegate Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi—who is likewise identified with the Palestinian left wing—are also in favor of suspending the process and holding a broad national dialogue through which the Palestinians will define the "red lines" of their stands.

The two Marxist components of the opposition—the PFLP and the DFLP, which launched a vigorous public relations campaign to promote the idea of suspending the talks and holding a national conference in the territories—are now discussing the possibility of merging in the framework of an organization to be named the "Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine."

Conference participants, who presented their positions to an audience of tens of thousands, raised questions pertaining to Palestinian decisionmaking processes and the need for internal reform in the spheres of politics and organization and in the PLO.

They urged the leadership to include the nation in the decisionmaking process, particularly in the reassessment of the peace process, and not to leave it solely to political institutions. They also called for a dialogue between all the Palestinian factions in a bid to attain a jointly formulated foundation document that will bind all the political elements, including the Palestinian delegation.

The "red lines" document will contain the minimum demands on which the Palestinian organizations are in accord, such as their refusal to cede Jerusalem.

'Abd-al-Majid Hamdan, a PPP member, said that the Palestinians "are now at a crossroads," and they need to introduce a new factor that will help them settle their differences on the peace process and other issues. He believed that a national dialogue can be instrumental in that.

Hamdan further said that "the Palestinians are not the only players in this arena, as Arab countries are also participants." He added: "It is possible that the Arab states, rather than other countries, will be the ones to force us to agree to concessions."

'Abd-al-Latif Ghayth from the PFLP said that the negotiations have reached a dead end. "At this stage, there is a conspiracy against the Palestinian nation designed to coerce it to accept Israeli-style autonomy. In the current situation, the delegation is liable to give in to pressure."

According to Ghayth, the Palestinians should postpone the peace process and weather the situation until better

terms are offered. In the meantime, "we have to concentrate on building, uniting, and strengthening the Palestinian home."

"Rabin is not our only enemy," Ghayth said. "Ignorance, corruption, and other negative phenomena that have appeared in our society and that should be dealt with are also our enemies."

Ghayth contended that the PLO should undergo reform in order "to do away with the manifestations of corruption and decay in various spheres, such as finances, politics, and administration, and a collective leadership should be established. It would be more efficient than a leadership composed of one man who alone makes most of the important decisions."

DFLP: Merger Talk 'Premature'

TA2705152593 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 27 May 93 p 1

[Text] Ramallah—Sources in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have affirmed that talk about a merger between the DFLP and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] is premature. A responsible DFLP official told AL-QUDS that the framework under which the two fronts had joined forces so far was the unified leadership body, which holds regular meetings and is seeking to develop relations between the two fronts on the basis of joint action by their branches and organizations at different locations and levels in confronting the self-administration plan and the Madrid-Washington approach. This body is also seeking to consolidate and expand militant relations between Palestinian democratic forces in the hope of developing those relations at a later stage.

This statement came in the wake of a media campaign that focused on the issue of unity between the two fronts.

Party Calls For Reassessment of Strike Days

TA2705153093 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 May 93 pp 1, 6

[Text] Gaza—The Palestinian People's Party in the Gaza Strip issued a political statement yesterday in which it called on the national and Islamic movements and all their factions and popular forces to reassess the phenomenon of the variety of strikes before time runs out and before this phenomenon turns into an instrument of self-imposed siege.

The statement called on the national movement's factions to devise new forms of protesting at and expressing rejection of the occupation in a way that would ensure meticulous observance of the interests of all social classes—workers, students, and merchants.

The statement concluded by calling for cooperation in employing the greatest number of workers so that it would be possible to maintain steadfastness and safeguard the political stance and national principles.

PLO Denies Tunisia Requested Headquarters Transfer

LD2805132393 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 May 93

[Excerpt] Tunis, 28 May (KUNA)—Hakam Bal'awi, the PLO representative in Tunis, has denied press reports that the Tunisian Government has asked the PLO to move its offices to Cairo. In a statement distributed here last night he said that Tunisia has never made such a request, nor is the PLO looking for any other headquarters at all, nor has it made any such request to President Husni Mubarak or any other Arab head of state. Press reports quoted Palestinian sources yesterday as saying that the PLO offices are to be moved from Tunis to Cairo at the request of the Tunisiain Government. [passage omitted]

Indian Minister Promises No Nuclear Pact With Israel

BK2705161893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] India has reiterated that upgradation of diplomatic ties with Israel will not dilute her commitment to the Palestinian cause. Speaking to newsmen in Tunis after meeting the PLO Chairman Mr. Yasir 'Arafat today, the visiting minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, said that India's decision to upgrade ties with Israel is intended to play an effective role in the ongoing West Asia peace talks. He categorically denied any agreement with Israel on nuclear cooperation. Mr. Bhatia called on the Tunisian deputy minister, Mr. Ben Mustapha, and discussed bilateral and international issues.

Algeria

Islamic Group Leader Views Political Situation

PM2705102693 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 24-30 May 93 pp 36-38

[Interview with Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Algerian Islamic Society Movement "Hamas," by Faysal Jallul in Algiers; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Jallul] How does your movement view the dialogue between the authorities and the opposition?

[Nahnah] The rapid changes that this part of the Arab nation is experiencing have made their mark, requiring a special detached view, so that a judgment can be made or a number of possibilities and expectations be listed. Algeria witnessed changes after the October 1988 incidents. We moved from an autocratic system to a pluralistic system, from socialism toward the market economy, and from a dictatorial system to a system seeking to deal with reality. All this caused a deep wound in our position [as published]. Our view of the Algerian reality centers around the struggle for identity, that is, the cultural struggle between those who want Algeria to remain in the Arab-Islamic framework and those who want Algeria to sever its ties with its history, civilization, and hence its future. This contradiction and this struggle over identity led to alienation, and thus we found ourselves assailed by the smell of gunpowder. We know that gunpowder will not solve the problem. A solution can only be achieved via dialogue and by discussing alternative views. Dialogue is a must, even with those whom we believe to be the enemies of the homeland and Islam. A dialogue must be opened with any party that enjoys a representative status.

When we felt that danger was surrounding Algeria and that the country was on the edge of a volcano and moving in unknown directions, we spoke of the need to be patient and to discuss alternative views. And we worked to prepare joint lists, alliances, and so on. But control of the situation was lost and the language of gunpowder became the master of the field and the official spokesman for the general situation.

[Jallul] Why all this determination not to name the perpetrator?

[Nahnah] We do not conceal the perpetrator. We say that the situation is surrounded by certain controversies. There is violence and counterviolence and terrorism confronted by an antiterrorist law. And there are those who want to look for the reasons for the crisis. Views differ over these reasons. We attribute terrorism and violence to the effects of the former socialist system. [passage omitted]

[Jallul] Assuming the democratic process is resumed and the elections are conducted, in this case the same problem will emerge. Because the Islamic voice will be predominant and will not be accepted by the regime, so matters will go back to square one. How can you extricate yourself from this vicious circle?

[Nahnah] The issue requires another view. This is why we must proceed from a group of realities. First and foremost, the Algerian people do not want to live under systems they tried in the past and and which proved a failure. Second, the people do not want to be controlled by a minority which represents no one but itself. Third, the people want to expand the circle of democratic practice through cooperation among those advocating democracy by rational discussion. The battle in this homeland is the Westernization battle. Supporters of Westernization have been given the opportunity, from a decisionmaking position, to spread many of their ideas, views, and decisions among a people who want nothing except to extricate themselves from these decisions which have proved a failure over the past three decades. [passage omitted]

[Jallul] Does your movement believe that the Algerian state is really legitimate?

[Nahnah] As long as we are in a transitional phase, it means that the state lacks legitimacy. We have been demanding that the transitional period be reduced since the formation of the Higher State Council. And during this period foundations should be laid for the next stage—foundations that are acceptable to all parties and center around the following questions: First, agreement on the principle of peaceful rotation of power. Second, renunciation of violence. Third, alleviation of the suffering of citizens, the poor, and the needy. Fourth, the release of prisoners.

[Jallul] Including Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj?

[Nahnah] We are talking about prisoners. It is clear. And I believe that the new situation will open the door to everyone to contribute to finding a way out of the dilemma Algeria is in. [passage omitted]

[Jallul] Do you trust the state's intention of allowing the opposition to participate in changing the Constitution?

[Nahnah] We really hope that the Higher State Council will agree to involve other parties in order to move out of the transitional phase with the least possible costs and the minimum losses. I imagine that reason and correct religion prompt every official in the authorities to avoid a dialogue of the deaf and to move away from the mentality of arrogance—which are two serious diseases. [passage omitted]

[Jallul] How do you view the phenomenon of the "Afghan Arabs" active in Egypt, Algeria, and a number of other states?

[Nahnah] There are no Afghan Arabs. There are Arabs who went to fight alongside the Afghans to defeat communism. They should have been decorated with medals on their return to their countries, but some of them returned to their homeland and were taken to prison directly from the airport. That is an outrage. Some of

them returned to their homeland carrying arms against their people—which is a gross mistake. A mistake should not be corrected by another mistake. They should have returned to their homelands without being called terrorists. How can a mujahid who fought against communism and helped his brothers in Afghanistan be called a terrorist? In Afghanistan he is called mujahid and in his homeland terrorist. No wise or religious person accepts such logic.

[Jalluf] Did you talk to some of them?

[Nahnah] Yes, I met with some of them. They are proud of what they did in Afghanistan. We tried to persuade many people not to confuse the concepts of terrorism and jihad. The jihad is conducted against Zionism and imperialism, not against the regime, authorities, and Muslims; a dialogue must be opened with the regime, authorities, and Muslims.

[Jalluf] Do you believe that the state is right to say that Iran is implicated in supporting fundamentalists in Algeria?

[Nahnah] I want you first to specify what you mean by fundamentalists.

[Jalluf] Let us say the salvationists [of the Islamic Salvation Front]?

[Nahnah] No real evidence has emerged in that connection until now. The Iranians should defend themselves and the Algerians as a state should defend themselves if any parties seek to interfere in our internal affairs. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Official Denies Cairo Blast Caused by Car Bomb

NC2705180393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1721 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 May (MENA)—A security official has stated that the terrorist act that occurred in al-Hayy al-'Ashir in al-Nasr City [Cairo suburb] at dawn today was caused by an explosive device and not a car bomb, as reported by some foreign media.

The official added that while a minibus bearing license number 38,921, driven by Ahmad Shawqi Kamil, was parked in front of a police checkpoint in Mustafa al-Nahhas Street, a device exploded in al-Hayy al-'Ashir in al-Nasr City. Jamal Riyad and his wife, Suhayr Musa Matar, who were nearby in their private car bearing Cairo license plate number 784,355, were wounded in the explosion.

The official said that the explosion also slightly wounded a police officer and a noncommissioned officer. A police recruit apparently suffered a fractured leg. All were taken to a hospital for treatment.

The explosion damaged the right sides of the two vehicles.

Interior Ministry officials, detectives, and forensic experts went to the site of the blast to gather information about the circumstances of the incident.

The state security prosecutor was informed in order to begin investigations.

Islamic Group Denies Involvement in 21 May Bombing

NC2705194393 Paris AFP in English 1857 GMT 27 May 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, May 27 (AFP) - The extremist al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] movement has denied any involvement in a Cairo car bomb attack last week which killed seven people and wounded 20 others, the weekly newspaper AL-SHA'B reported Thursday.

"The al-Jama'ah has never resorted to the murder of innocents and will never do so to achieve its objectives," the weekly said citing what it described as a statement from the fundamentalist group.

The group said Israel was to blame for Friday's attack as well as an unclaimed cafe bombing in a central Cairo square in February, that killed three people, including two foreign tourists, and injured 19 others. [passage omitted]

18,000 Reportedly Arrested in Security Raids in South

NC2705201393 Paris AFP in English 1930 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Cairo, May 27 (AFP) - The Egyptian security forces have arrested some 18,000 people in raids in southern Egypt, targeting common law criminals and men who skipped their military service, an Interior Ministry official said Thursday.

A total of 13,621 convicted criminals tried in absentia were arrested between May 20 and 25.

Another 4,213 people were arrested for failing to do their military service, which is compulsory in Egypt, the official said.

The authorities also detained 17,233 other people over unpaid fines but released them after they paid their dues.

Police on Wednesday announced the arrest of hundreds of people suspected of links with Islamic militants.

They were captured during the same five-day raids in several areas, including Asyut, Suhaj, Aswan and the Red Sea province.

South Egypt is the stronghold of Muslim fundamentalists and along with the Red Sea province constitutes a major center for arms trafficking.

Extremist Group Uncovered, Linked to Hamas

NC2805085993 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 24 May 93 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[Text] The Higher State Security Prosecution officials, while interrogating terrorists charged with committing several incidents in Upper Egypt, have uncovered a large organization in Cairo and northern Egypt. The organization, called the Reconstitution of al-Jihad Organization [i'adat tashkil tanzim al-jihad], has a membership of about 400 extremists, including 21 Palestinians linked to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad in Palestine. The Palestinians in question fled from the West Bank and Gaza, where they are wanted by Israeli authorities, to south Lebanon. From there, Hizballah leaders helped them travel to Libya, whence they came to Egypt.

Leading member Majdi Salim was arrested at the al-Sallum customs point on the borders with Libya. He made confessions about the organization's plans and showed the police documents and coded instructions from Ayman al-Zawahiri, another leading member. Al-Zawahiri was trying to move the group's activity to south Lebanon so that its members could be trained there under Hizballah, because the Pakistani authorities have made it difficult for them to stay in Peshawar.

Musa Discusses Investment With French Businessmen

NC2705133193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1157 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with a delegation representing the Egyptian-French Businessmen Association. The discussion dealt with the private sector's role in activating and promoting the economic relations between Egypt and France.

The foreign minister reviewed the guarantees Egypt provides for foreign capital and the facilities investments enjoy in all sectors. Musa said that the legislations, laws, and regulations that govern the business sector in Egypt are being developed to become consistent with the aim of establishing a free economy that encourages private initiative according to a market economy within the framework of sound democracy.

Referring to some terrorist incidents that recently took place in Egypt, Musa affirmed that there is absolutely no comparison between what is happening in Egypt and what is happening in some other countries.

Visiting Vietnamese Minister Meets With Sidqi

BK2805062393 Hanoi VNA in English 0607 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 28—Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Muhammad Najib Sidqi received in Cairo on May 25 Minister of Water Conservancy Nguyen Canh Dinh who was on an official visit to Egypt occasioned by the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

During the reception Minister Nguyen Canh Dinh conveyed the best regards of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and President Le Duc Anh respectively to the Egyptian prime minister and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and expressed Vietnam's wish for stronger all-sided relations between the two countries. Prime Minister Najib Sidqi said Minister Nguyen Canh Dinh's visit is an important event since it is the first visit of a Vietnamese minister to Egypt in ten years. It certainly will open a new period of cooperation, he added.

Concludes 5-Day Visit

NC2805103693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1008 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 May (MENA)—Nguyen Canh Dinh, Vietnamese minister of water conservancy, left Cairo this morning for home after a five-day visit to Egypt. The Vietnamese minister held talks with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; on ways to promote bilateral cooperation. The Vietnamese official signed a memorandum of understanding in the field of irrigation and drainage with Engineer 'Isam Radi, minister of public works and water resources.

Columnist Claims U.S. Wants Saddam To Remain

NC2705193393 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 21 May 93 p 32

["Positions" column by Anis Mansur]

[Text] What happened in Iraq and to Iraq was not long ago. The United States is more anxious today to safeguard Saddam Husayn than ever. If Israel were to try to assassinate him, the United States would object. Israel has announced the failure of a plan to assassinate Saddam. In fact, it has not even tried, but it made this claim with the agreement of the Americans so that it would not be said that Israel is not serious about killing Saddam.

Israel announced that a military intelligence unit had prepared a plan to assassinate Saddam with the assistance of its spies inside Iraq, but the weapons of this unit exploded during training for the operation. Israel also expelled some foreign journalists who published this report. The truth is that it did nothing of the kind and fabricated this story from beginning to end.

The United States said it has photographs of Saddam shaving in his bunker. If so, how has it been unable to assassinate him?

It was the United States that sent its ambassador to Saddam and led him on to invade Kuwait and hit Saudi Arabia. It then punished this ambassador and sent her to oblivion, claiming that she erred in conveying the State

Department's views and, instead of warning Saddam against attacking Kuwait, warned him against attacking Saudi Arabia. The Iraqi aggression occurred, and, as a result, the United States gained more than $90 billion in salaries, social security, and allowances in return for repairing what the war had destroyed. Furthermore, two large companies owned by the sons of President Bush and his secretary of state, James Baker, have been established. All the states that participated in the war also gained something. Israel alone received $11 billion, $1 billion for every missile that landed in Israel. Most of these missiles were packed with sand and pebbles and fell in the cities' Iraqi neighborhoods. [as published] I personally inspected one of them.

Bush was rewarded by Kuwait with a ton of gold, which he took back with him. This gold is his own. If Kuwait had given him this gold while he was in power, he would have had to return it to the government. The law prohibits a public official from receiving gifts worth more than $75, let alone $75 million!

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Mubarak Invitation to Summit

LD2705143393 Tripoli JANA in English 1419 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Tripoli, al Maa 27/JAMAHARIYA NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received Muhammed Wifa'i Hijazi, the deputy foreign minister and personal envoy of Husni Mubarak. Hijazi gave the leader a message from President Mubarak concerning an invitation to the leader to attend the African summit, which will be held in Cairo at the end of next month. The message also dealt with bilateral relations, and Arab and international issues of joint interest.

Hijazi, who arrived in Tripoli on May 27th, was received by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity. He confirmed the depth of brotherly relations between the two countries. "We in Egypt rely heavily on the participation of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who will contribute to the promotion of relations between African states and the Arab homeland," Hijazi said.

Mauritania

Foreign Minister Returns From Oman, Qatar

AB2705220593 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Mohamed Abdrahmane Ould Moine returned to Nouakchott this afternoon from Muscat and Doha.

In a statement to the MAURITANIAN NEWS AGENCY, the minister said that he delivered a message from the president of the Republic to his brother, His Highness Qabus Bin-Sa'id, sultan of Oman, who expressed complete satisfaction with the contents of this message and his readiness to continue consultations with his brother, his excellency the president of the Republic, Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, on Arab-Islamic problems. He explained that Sultan Qabus charged him in return to deliver a message to his excellency the president of the Republic.

In Doha, the foreign minister delivered a similar message from the president of the Republic to his brother Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar.

The minister explained that the amir received him immediately on his arrival. He was satisfied with the contents of this message and the progress made by Mauritania in the political and economic fields. The amir also charged our minister to deliver a message to his brother, Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, president of the Republic.

According to [word indistinct], Mr. Moine added that outside his mission, he held fruitful discussions with his counterparts in these two countries. The discussions centered on bilateral cooperation and ways to reinforce it.

Sudan

Libyan Oil Shipments Reportedly Resume

PM2805113093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 May 93 p 4

['Uthman Mirghani and 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi report: "Libya Resumes Oil Shipments to Khartoum"]

[Excerpts] London, Brussels—Informed European sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that EC cooperation and development ministers agreed at their meeting in Brussels to send a fact-finding mission to Sudan. [passage omitted]

At another level, Libya has resumed oil shipments to Sudan. Well-informed sources have said that a Maltese ship carrying 24,000 tonnes of petroleum and gasoline has crossed the Red Sea en route to Port Sudan, and that Sudanese Ambassador to Libya 'Abbas Anwar is supervising the loading of another ship in Surt.

The sources said that resumption of oil shipments falls within the framework of an agreement reached during a visit to Libya recently by Major General Muhammad Salih al-Zubayr, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister of Sudan. It stipulates that Libya is to supply Sudan with 80,000 tonnes of petroleum products a month in return for Tripoli's obtaining 40 percent of Sudan's exports in addition to a monthly sum of $5 million in cash.

But well-informed Sudanese sources have described the agreement as "political," on the basis that the proportion of 40 percent of Sudan's exports does not cover the value of the monthly Libyan shipments, which is estimated at some $25 million.

The sources based this on a report by the Sudanese National Assembly Economic Committee indicating that Sudan's exports have not exceeded $150 million.

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Stresses Close Ties With U.S.

LD2805051993 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 May 93

[Excerpts] Minister of Foreign Affairs Habib Ben Yahya, who has begun a working visit to Washington, held talks yesterday with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on bilateral relations, the situation in the Arab Maghreb, the African dimension of Tunis, and the peace process in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

For his part, Mr. Habib Ben Yahya highlighted the traditional relations of friendship, dialogue, and consultation between the two countries and stressed that Tunisia and the United States share a body of common values and principles. He pointed out in this respect that the two countries are working together for peace, security, stability, and the establishment of democracy in the world. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Assembly Committee in Conflict With Defense Minister

PM2805090093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 May 93 p 1

[Nasir al-Mutayri report: "Signs of Confrontation in Kuwait Between Defense Minister and National Assembly"]

[Text] Kuwait—There were signs yesterday of a confrontation in Kuwait between the National Assembly, represented by the five-member committee entrusted with investigating the arms deals, and the Defense Ministry, represented by Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah.

Parliamentary sources have expressed their fear that this new confrontation with the defense minister might lead to a proposal to question him before the National Assembly.

Ahmad Baqir, secretary of the National Assembly and head of the five-member committee, said that the committee has reached an impasse in relation to the investigation into the excesses taking place. He said that the defense minister "submitted several requests that violate the Constitution and the Assembly's rules, insisting on seeing the evidence and documents submitted to the committee in this connection."

Deputy Baqir said that the parliamentary investigating committee insisted on its position of rejecting the defense minister's requests on the grounds that he is a member of the body being investigated. He added that in the history of the National Assembly, it has never been customary for any minister to see the minutes of an investigative committee's meetings. Baqir pointed out that the five-member committee held extensive consultations with National Assembly Speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun and members of the legislative and legal committee. They all agreed to reject the defense minister's requests, stressing the need for the committee to adhere to its view and to refuse to acquaint anyone with the secrets of the investigation.

Deputy Ahmad Baqir said that the committee was still waiting to receive the documents it officially requested from the defense minister, which concern armament budgets and contracts of the arms purchases for the Kuwaiti Army, and that a number of leading Defense Ministry officials abstained from appearing before the committee in its recent meeting—which carries the threat of the eruption of a government-parliamentary crisis.

Answering a question put to him by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah denounced the five-member committee's refusal to provide him with the documents and evidence submitted by Deputy Mubarak al-Duwaylah regarding alleged financial excesses in military armament budgets. He said: "I submitted an official request to the National Assembly speaker to provide me with the documents concerning the investigation, but no reply has been received yet."

Petroleum Minister Returns From Talks in Iran

LD2705224693 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Petroleum Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli returned home this evening after a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the visit, he met Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and conveyed to him the greetings of his highness the amir and the Kuwaiti people.

The oil minister praised the positive results achieved during the visit, which was in response to an invitation by Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i. He said that he had discussed with his Iranian counterpart a number of petroleum issues and the possibility of bolstering petroleum cooperation between the two countries.

Saudi Arabia

Ban Reportedly Imposed on Pilgrimage Ceremony

LD2705154793 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] The disavowal of the infidels ceremonies, which were to have been held this afternoon by hajj pilgrims of the house of God in holy Mecca, were not held because the Saudi authorities forbade them, according to the Islamic Republic of Iran broadcasting service. According to this report, the Saudi officials' ban on the disavowal of the infidels ceremonies is contrary to the Saudi Government's agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran. It also violates the natural rights of the Iranian pilgrims of the house of God, who, by proclaiming their disavowal of the infidels' message and by issuing their union-creating and monotheistic call of God is Great, were expressing in this great Abrahamian hajj congress their demand for a movement toward monotheism and the unity of Muslims, as well as deploring the lack of unity in the Islamic world.

Roadblocks Removed

LD2805150493 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] According to our correspondent in honorable Mecca, as of 1700 Tehran time today, the Saudi police began gradually to remove roadblocks from around the streets leading to the residence of the esteemed leader [building in Mecca assigned to Iran's Hajj officials], allowing vehicles to use those streets.

The same report states that as soon as the traffic began to move in (Abtah) and (Ma'bedah) Streets, a large number

of vehicles were seen in the vicinity; they were carrying caravans of pilgrims from other Islamic countries which have to go through these streets to reach 'Arafat.

As traffic began to move in (Abtah) and (Ma'bedah) Streets, owners of stores and shopkeepers opened their business premises. In these streets the situation has returned to relative normalcy.

Yemen

Oil Company Experts Kidnapped by al-Jawf Gunmen

PM2705154693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 May 93 p 1

[Hammud Munsir and Lutfi Shatarah report: "Two Americans Kidnapped in Yemen"]

[Text] Sanaa, Aden—Yemeni gunmen from the al-Jawf tribes in the Ma'rib area, 250 km east of Sanaa, have kidnapped two U.S. experts from the U.S. oil company Hunt Oil in the first incident of its kind since the Yemeni elections. Sources close to the company said that the kidnapping is perhaps in retaliation for a death sentence passed recently against four bandits and hijackers of foreign cars who were arrested in the Hajjah area, 70 km east of Sanaa, three weeks ago.

The sources added that the incident occurred in the afternoon the day before yesterday in the area where the Hunt company has oil prospecting concessions. The sources said in statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the gunmen's car blocked the way of a car used by the two experts, who were accompanied by a Yemeni driver. The gunmen beat up the driver and kidnapped the two experts. They left Ma'rib Governorate and headed toward al-Jawf Governorate.

The company's sources said that it does not know where the two experts are being held, and that it has informed the Yemeni authorities of the incident. They added that it seems that "the aim of the incident is to put pressure on the Yemeni authorities to commute the sentences. It is noted that the gunmen chose a critical time for the Yemeni authorities, namely before the announcement of the new government's formation and while the country is experiencing a state of vacuum."

Other sources from the same company pointed out that some early indications point to the possibility that the kidnapping could be in protest at the rulings issued by the Supreme Constitutional Court in relation to the election contestations.

While Yemeni security and police forces moved in to pursue the kidnappers and free the two U.S. experts, Hunt company sources said that the " 'Ubaydah" tribes in Ma'rib Governorate also pursued the kidnappers and are currently negotiating with al-Jawf tribes to secure the release of the two experts "on the basis that the al-Jawf tribes violated tribal traditions and entered their territory, where the Americans were kidnapped."

The sources did not state the results of the negotiations. However, they said that military leaders are taking part in the negotiations in order to find out the demands of the al-Jawf tribes.

The sources added that this is the first incident of its kind this year and expressed hope that a solution would be found to end the kidnapping operation. They stressed that the incident will not affect the company's operations in the area.

Envoy to UN Protests U.S. 'Hostile' Acts

JN2805112893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Iraq today protested the hostile acts carried out by U.S. aircraft against agricultural areas in Iraq.

The INA correspondent in New York reported that Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations, sent a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali in which he asked him to take the necessary measures stipulated by the UN Charter to put an end to these aggressive acts and stop them from being repeated in the future.

The letter adds that U.S. aircraft continued to drop flares, thus providing further proof of the United States' insistence on harming Iraq and its people and infringing on its security and sovereignty.

The paper explains that two U.S. aircraft on the afternoon of 22 May dropped five flares on al-Badriyah area, located 10 km to the south of Fa'idah hamlet on the main highway between Mosul and Fa'idah.

Iraq on Monday [24 May] made a similar protest to the United Nations when U.S. aircraft dropped flares on a farm south of al-Kuwayr area in the Irbil Governorate.

It is worth mentioning that U.S. aircraft deliberately harm the Iraqi people by attempting to set fire to crops that are being harvested.

Arab League Also Informed

JN2805115293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Iraq has informed the Arab League that the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers have continued to provide facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft to violate Iraq's airspace and threaten its security and sovereignty.

In this regard, a letter addressed to the Arab League secretary general says that on 25 May, these aircraft continued their violations of Iraq's airspace. After taking off from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, they carried out 67 hostile sorties.

Iraq has also protested to the United Nations the continued violations by U.S. aircraft for provocation and surveillance purposes. A memorandum explains that U.S. aircraft conducted 422 sorties between 18 and 23 May.

Defense Minister Cables Saddam on 'Id Holiday

JN2705194593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 May 93

["Text" of cable from Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid to President Saddam Husayn on occasion 'Id al-Adha holiday; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, and those who strive in our cause, we will certainly guide them to our paths: For verily God is with those who do right. [Koranic verse]

Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq and commander in chief of the Armed Forces:

On the advent of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, I present to you—in my own name and on behalf of your valiant men in our brave Army—heartfelt congratulations, asking Almighty God to grant you a long life and to preserve you for the Iraqis and the Arabs.

My leader president:

With the advent of this blessed 'Id, more than 1,000 days have passed since the imposition of the unjust blockade on our people. However, the determination of the valiant Iraqis, the carriers of the great message, is stronger than the plots of the imperialist enemies and the chapters of their continuous plotting. The Iraqis have exploited time in the interest of Iraq. Among the Iraqis are your mujahidin, the sons of this great Army, who spared no effort or time in the process of reorganizing the formations of our Army. Today, this proud and balanced Army stands up to avert aggression against our people and sacred land.

My mujahid president:

What the lofty Iraqis are achieving in these glorious days will be written in the contemporary history with shining letters, reminding the coming generations of the steadfastness of this great people, the people of the two historic epics—the glorious al- Qadisiyah battle of Saddam and the Mother of Battles. This people confronted the attacks of 30 states and they are still confronting the abortive plots of the enemies. The Iraqis are making sacrifices and inventions in all fields to prove to the world that this people deserve a free and honorable life.

My leader president:

We pledge to you that your men will remain vigilant and faithful. They will continue to believe that our steadfast and mujahid Iraq will have a shining future. We will always remain faithful soldiers to defend our giant revolution and its great achievements against all aggressors until God grants us splendid victory over our enemies. God listen to our call.

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Staff General Fighter 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council and defense minister

Culture Minister Comments on Effects of Sanctions

NC2805084593 Paris AFP in English 0750 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 28 (AFP)—An Iraqi government official said the West was growing weary of U.N. sanctions against Baghdad and would lift the embargo within two years.

Information and Culture Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi told AFP that his country was suffering from the effects of the sanctions but that its ability to survive was stronger.

"They (western countries) are showing signs of fatigue but not us. It's a matter of two years," for the sanctions to be lifted, he said Thursday.

Iraq has rebuilt more than 80 percent of the infrastructure destroyed in the Gulf War and will not give in to international pressure, he said.

On Monday the U.N. Security Council decided to maintain sanctions on Iraq, saying Baghdad had still failed to abide by U.N. resolutions imposed since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Russian Ambassador Yuliy Vorontsov, who currently holds the rotating presidency of the council, said that in its 60-day review the council determined that conditions for lifting or easing the embargo had not been met.

Hammadi said that five million Iraqis out of 18 million who live in urban areas were bearing the brunt of the sanctions, adding that inflation had climbed by 1,800 percent since the sanctions were imposed.

Inhabitants of rural areas were "subsisting better", he said.

"We are not Somalis," he said, underlining that Iraq with its large farming resources never had to face famine.

But a shortage of medicine and related equipment had hurt the country's health system badly, "quadrupling the rate of infant mortality and tripling the rate of adult mortality," he added.

Hammadi also accused the United States, which spearheaded the sanctions, of seeking to set up a "puppet government" in Baghdad.

Such a regime must "get rid of at least one million Iraqis in order to survive."

New Quarter-Dinar Banknote Enters Circulation

JN2805094493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 May 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 28 May (INA)—The Central Bank of Iraq and other commercial banks in the country are circulating the new quarter-dinar banknote.

[Central Bank Governor] Tariq Talib al-Takmaji told INA that the new banknote measures 118 by 66 mm. [passage omitted]

Polish Delegation Denounces Sanctions

JN2705172493 Baghdad INA in English 1645 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 27, INA—Polish parliamentarians have denounced the continuation of the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

In a joint communique issued at the end of the visit of the Polish MP's and businessmen delegation to Baghdad, they expressed the readiness of the Polish Parliament to exert efforts to lift this unjust sanction. They stressed that they will explain to the Parliament and the public opinion in Poland the tragic conditions of the Iraqi people. They added that they will take necessary measures to send food and medicine to the Iraqi people.

Oil Officials Discuss Projects, Exploration

JN2705140093 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 27, INA—Acting director general of the Iraqi Oil Projects Company (OPC) Husam Mahmud said here Wednesday his company was being engaged in forty-seven oil projects in various parts of Iraq including strategic ones at a cost amounting to 10 billion dollars.

He noted that the projects, totally implemented by Iraqi personnel, involved developing of oilfields, refineries, setting up pipes for oil products transportation among provinces, oil products tanks, as well as non-oil projects.

Mahmud was speaking to journalists on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of oil nationalization that occures on 1 June.

On this occasion, the official explained, a project for oil products transportation pipes between Baghdad and Diyalah province, some 60 km. east of the capital, implemented for the first time in the country is to be innaugurated.

He stated that a similar project to link Baghdad with al-Anbar province about 100 km. west of the capital was being set up.

The official added that the company, the executive arm of the Oil Ministry, also participated with other companies in implementing strategic projects such as irrigational projects, a two-tier bridge in Baghdad and a petrochemical plant with a capacity of 1.5 million tonnes a year.

Mahamud pointed out that following the Gulf conflict, OPC had undertaken fifty-four reconstruction projects at a cost of about one billion dollars.

Speaking on the oil nationalization anniversary, he said that the historical decision had opened wide prospects for Iraqi oil personnel to undertake the process of oil exploration, production and marketing.

It had made a coup d' etat in Iraq's oil industry, he affirmed.

In a press briefing on the anniversary, Dr. Radwan Hammudi al- Sa'di, director general of the Oil Exploration Company (OEC) said Iraq was probably now the only country in the region which possesses a full control over the circles of the oil industry.

He pointed out that Iraq had very qualified potentials to implement different oil processes which were a monopoly to foreign firms.

Al-Sa'di explained that his company had managed to re-establish exploration teams that were severly affected during the Gulf conflict.

He said Iraqi exploration teams were capable to undertake seismic surveys in all regions, such as marshes and desert.

OEC is exploring for oil in non-tranditional oil centers like Kirkuk in the north and al-Basrah in the south, al-Sa'di mentioned.

He gave Akkas [name as received] oilfield located in the western desert as an example which proved the existence of oil reservoirs that would enhance Iraq's crude reserves.

The official stressed that oil nationalization and the reconstruction drive implemented in the aftermath of the Gulf war gave us an impetus to implement ambitious plans.

Al-Sa'di stated that OEC was capable to provide new quantities of crude to compensate for the exploited oil.

The next 10 years would witness a qualitative chance in Iraq's oil centers, he concluded.

Daily Warns Gulf States Against 'Expansionist' Iran

NC2805102193 Paris AFP in English 0958 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 28 (AFP)—Iraq on Friday [28 May] warned Arab Gulf monarchies against an "expansionist" Iran and charged that Tehran's diplomatic moves in the Gulf were a cover for plans to dominate the region.

AL-THAWRAH newspaper said Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's tour of the Arab Gulf monarchies this past week was "a new diplomatic initiative aimed at covering up for Iran's aggressive and expansionist policies."

The ruling Ba'th Party daily urged Arab Gulf leaders "not to believe" Iran when it says it is concerned about maintaining stability in the region.

It charged that Iran had territorial designs over Bahrain, had occupied three Gulf islands disputed by the United Arab Emirates and sparked disturbances in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in recent years.

"The region would have been entirely under Iranian domination had it not been for Iraq, which paid a heavy price to block Tehran's expansionist ambitions," AL-THAWRAH said in reference to the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

Baghdad is not asking Arab Gulf states to break off ties with Iran, but rather maintain "balanced relations" with Tehran, the daily said.

Velayati said Wednesday at the end of a six-nation tour of Arab Gulf states that a new chapter had been opened in relations between Iran and the oil-rich monarchies.

Says Saddam Offers 'Guarantee' for Kurds

JN2805112093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 28 May (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper has asserted that betting on Iraq's enemies will not benefit those who trade in the Kurdish cause, which, in fact, is the Iraqi people's cause.

In an article today, the paper says: The humiliating lesson the so-called Kurdistan Front chorus should learn—if they still have any sense—is that betting on Iraq's enemies will not benefit those who trade in the Kurdish cause, which, in fact, is the Iraqi people's cause. That cause could only survive and advance under national unity, under the care of the person who gave it a full humanitarian dimension in the historic 11 March statement, which is considered by all Kurds—including those who followed the foreign canopy illusion—as the major achievement in the history of the Kurds, and not only Iraqi Kurds but Kurds throughout the entire region.

The paper notes the good news the Iraqi people heard this week of the great disappointment felt by Barzani and Talabani. The paper says: Those who pushed them to turn their backs on their country have now begun to abandon them and leave them with nothing. They now have no special entity to climb on; no institutional alternatives to the center have been established to provide security and food to our Kurdish people. Their slogans were dropped. No good Iraqi Kurds—not even the deviators—now believe the allegations they have circulated and the promises they made to bring prosperity to the region in isolation from mother Baghdad. Their problems have worsened now that their allies are no longer paying to protect them, after the UN troops announced their bankruptcy and began a systematic withdrawal from the area.

The paper asserts: Baghdad's road is the only road that will save the autonomous region. Betting on the foreigners is not wise. It only reflects bankruptcy. Both sides have gone bankrupt. They should know that Iraq will remain and that Saddam Husayn will remain. He is the guarantee for both the Kurds and the Arabs, and under his canopy ideas interact and the courses of genuine democratic action are charted. The road to Baghdad is the only safe, open road.

Kurdish People Urged To Drive Out 'Infidels'

JN2705200993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] 27 May (INA) [dateline as received]—The Legislative and Executive Councils of the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan have called on the sons of our Kurdish people to deny any chance to the enemies of the Iraq of Arabs, Kurds, and minorities, urging them to reject the presence of infidels and heretics in Iraqi Kurdistan.

In an appeal addressed to the sons of our Kurdish people in the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan, the two councils also urged the Kurdish people to rebel against those who sold and betrayed the homeland and to drive them out of Iraqi Kurdistan to preclude a sedition in which the fire of the evildoers and stooges would burn the good citizens of Kurdistan.

The following is the text of the appeal:

It is no secret to you that the forces of imperialism, Zionism, and other regional circles that hold a grudge against our steadfast, struggling Iraq are doing their utmost, through conspiracies, intrigues, and intelligence services, to cause great harm to Iraq with its national unity and unified history. This started to happen after Iraq broke the shackles of years of subservience, humiliation, and misery and charted its own course of awakening, standing on firm, independent feet and dealing with others in line with humanitarian principles, surpassing the double standards of the colonialist West and its fake democracy.

The statement added: The United States led 33 large and small nations to launch a blatant aggression against Iraq, resulting in studied, large-scale destruction and an unprecedented, unjust blockade. The most treacherous, evil, and oppressive forces took part in this aggression, either directly or through politicized and camouflaged aggression. Despite all this vindictiveness and aggression, Iraq is standing tall under its leader president, removing the dust of treachery and reconstructing the mainstays of its industrial and scientific progress, which were targeted by the evil circles in their shameful, unfair war against great Iraq.

The statement affirms that after the failure of their abortive aggression, the imperialist and Zionist forces began to activate their agents, stooges, and scandalous followers in another abortive attempt to bury the Iraqi experiment and break the Iraqi people's steel-like will, which is bypassing the circumstances of the comprehensive blockade to the stage of self-reliance and building a modern state under leader President Saddam Husayn.

The statement says: Under their illegitimate presence in Iraqi Kurdistan, the world's evil forces have let loose agents and stooges so as to be engaged in acts of tampering, destruction, burning, and looting, and to divide a joint history that extends for thousands of years. O our good people in Iraqi Kurdistan, valiant sons of Saddam Husyan, sons of the autonomy and national and cultural rights, brothers in struggle, history, and faith, be informed that the Western presence over your heads has nothing to do with defending you and the Kurds. Our Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan are being daily slain under the Western presence. Meanwhile, Kurds in neighboring countries are being killed in a campaign of genocide that spares no child or elderly person. So when will eyes be opened to these facts? When will you know that the planes that are flying over your heads under the pretext of protecting you are the same planes which burned our sons in Irbil and the Ba'sarmah complex in Harir subdistrict? These planes are the same that destroyed our telecommunication centers, power stations, and water tanks in Kurdistan. They are the same that burned the children of Palestine, Lebanon, Laos, Cambodia, and destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki over the heads of their residents.

The statement urges the good sons of the Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan not to let the army of the infidels peddle its wicked conspiracies against them so as not to be turned into a fuel for its furnace. The statement says: Remove the weeds from the fields of Kurdistan, and do not let a traitor besmirch your renowned nationalist history and abolish your existence in the Iraq of Arabs, Kurds, and minorities.

O zealous sons in Iraqi Kurdistan: Foil the enemy designs and reject the presence of the infidels and dissenters in the Kurdistan of the legislative and executive institutions and autonomy.

Revolt against the evil traitors who sell out the homeland. Chase them out of our territorial borders and expel them from our homes in Iraqi Kurdistan so that no sedition will occur and so that our good sons will not be burned by the fire of the evil ones and stooges.

INC's Bahr-al-'Ulum on Outcome of U.S. Talks

PM2705150893 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 24-30 May 93 pp 34-35

[Interview with Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, member of the Iraqi National Congress Presidential Council, by Zaki Shihab; place and date not given]

[Text] [Shihab] How different was your meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Vice

President Al Gore from your meeting on a previous visit with James Baker and other officials of the former administration?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] Actually, our recent visit to Washington and our meetings with officials of the new administration were characterized by extreme interest and seriousness. We sensed a desire on their part to help the Iraqi opposition on the basis that the Iraqi National Congress [INC] is the democratic alternative to the current regime in Baghdad. The difference between the position of the current administration under Bill Clinton and the former administration under President Bush is as follows:

1. The interest of the new administration was demonstrated at a higher level than the interest shown by President Bush's administration. We met with Vice President Al Gore and other officials this time, whereas our previous visits were confined to protocol meetings with former Secretary of State James Baker and the president's national security adviser. This difference reflects President Clinton's interest in the Iraqi issue. Al Gore saw the Iraqi issue as a tragic issue and saw the continuous resolve to commit crime as the distinguishing feature of Saddam's regime.

2. President Bush counted on a military coup that would overthrow the head of the regime but keep the ruling establishment and the party establishment in place, but Al Gore, Warren Christopher, and even National Security Adviser Anthony Lake emphasized that there will be no dialogue, leniency, normalization, or dealing with Saddam and that the Iraqi president is a failure. The U.S. Administration's determination to send a file to the United Nations and call for the formation of a fact-finding commission to expose the crimes of Saddam Husayn and his regime proves the U.S. Administration's seriousness and resolve not to deal with Saddam Husayn now or in the future.

3. On our latest visit, the U.S. officials confirmed to us their willingness to provide all kinds of aid for the Iraqi people. The fact that they received us in the first 100 days of their term is evidence of their interest. They indicated that Saddam Husayn still posed a threat to the region and the environment.

[Shihab] In practical terms, what did the U.S. officials promise you, other than their declaration that they have no intention of dealing with Saddam Husayn now or in the future?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] They gave a definite promise that Saddam Husayn would be brought to trial. Such a trial, if it takes place, would be sufficient to resolve our crisis.

[Shihab] What in detail are the procedural steps for such a trial?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] The U.S. Administration has the file for the trial of Saddam Husayn ready. They asked us to supply them with additional documents on past crimes to be submitted to the United Nations to pave the way for the formation of a special commission for that purpose. I personally submitted documents on the crimes being committed in the marshes area, threatening about half a million people in addition to the fish and bird life in that area following the Iraqi Government's decision to divert the rivers and drain the area. The people of the marshlands depend for their livelihood on the fish and bird life and on agriculture.

[Shihab] Did the talks with the U.S. officials cover means of securing medical and food aid for the marshlands population?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] Yes, they discussed with us ways of ensuring the delivery of such supplies, and they ruled out airdrops. We had suggested that they send UN observers to the cities to supervise the distribution of food to the population. The U.S. Administration promised to submit a study to the United Nations that would lead to a final decision on this matter.

[Shihab] What about the idea of creating a safe haven in southern Iraq?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] We noticed a change in the U.S. position on the question of a safe haven. We stressed to the U.S. officials that creating a safe haven would in no way be a step toward Iraq's partition. I emphasized to the officials I met with that the people of southern Iraq are Arab tribes who never agreed and would never agree to be ruled by any party.

[Shihab] The question of Kuwait-Iraq border demarcation was raised at your meetings with Secretary of State Warren Christopher and other officials. Who raised the issue, and what was your reply?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] All the officials we met with in Washington during our visit raised that question, and our reply was that we recognize all of the recent UN resolutions. That undoubtedly means that we accept the decision of the UN Security Council and the international legal organizations and quarters that redefined the borders between Kuwait and Iraq. We cannot reject any resolution.

[Shihab] Including the border demarcation resolution.

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] Yes, I said any resolution. We have no right to distinguish between the UN resolutions, which are all binding resolutions as far as we are concerned.

[Shihab] U.S. Secretary of State Christopher made a point of asking you to cooperate with the states neighboring Iraq. In what context was that matter raised?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] He told us: The INC is the alternative to the current regime and you should strengthen your ties with the neighboring states. That, in my view, is right. Sooner or later Saddam Husayn's regime will fall. We, therefore, should deal with the neighboring states on a fraternal and friendly basis. That is our conviction. Any

of the brothers in the Iraqi opposition who disagrees with that would be told by us without hesitation that he has failed the test.

[Shihab] What about the economic blockade against Iraq? Will it continue?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] We told the U.S. officials that the economic blockade and the regime's economic crisis will bring down the regime. The recent dinar crisis was, in our view, fabricated by the regime with the aim of mobilizing world public opinion against the states that made the blockade decision and with the aim of opening up alternative routes with other states, such as Iran.

[Shihab] Do you have any information about normalization of relations between Baghdad and Tehran?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] Meetings were held between the foreign ministers of the two countries in Pakistan on the sidelines of the Islamic foreign ministers conference held in Karachi. When I attended a conference in Tehran a few weeks ago, the Iraqi awqaf and religious affairs minister was there at the head of an official Iraqi delegation. Before that, the Iraqi health minister visited Tehran. There is cooperation between Baghdad and Tehran in various fields. Iran, we believe, has interests that may be at odds with our interests as Iraqis.

[Shihab] Why did you, as the opposition, request military aid from Washington recently?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] There was some give and take regarding that issue. The truth is that the Kurdish brothers requested arms to defend themselves. As regards field action, we stressed the need for the formation of an Iraqi army but also pointed out that we would seek to achieve our objectives of change without bloodshed. The Kurdish brothers asked U.S. officials to supply them with antiaircraft weapons.

[Shihab] Did the Americans promise to grant their request?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] They said they would study the request.

[Shihab] What did the U.S. Administration mean by saying that it would provide assistance, aid, and support for the INC?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] Resolving the Iraqi people's food crisis was one of the pressing issues we raised. The Americans promised to hold the necessary contacts with the United Nations to get a resolution to send UN observers to Iraq to supervise distribution of aid. They also promised to safeguard the marshlands area. With the exception of the safe haven question, they agreed with us on everything and said that some aspects require study.

[Shihab] Have the Americans lost hope for a military coup against Saddam Husayn?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] The current U.S. Administration does not pin much hope on the possibility of a military coup against Saddam, unlike the former administration.

[Shihab] According to the U.S. media and some U.S. officials, more than $40 million was paid to Iraqi opposition parties and was misused. Who received these funds? What was the INC's share of the funds allocated by the U.S. Government or its intelligence services?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] Neither I nor any member of the INC leadership has any knowledge of any U.S. funds paid to the INC to this day. Did they spend their money on some military people, and is that why they have changed their mind about relying on a military coup, particularly in view of past reports about military coup attempts foiled by Saddam Husayn?

[Shihab] Did you raise the question of financial aid with the U.S. officials?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] Yes, we told them that the INC needs funds and that what we wanted from them was either to release the Iraqi assets frozen in their banks or to prepare with other states to give us loans that we would repay later on. The U.S. officials' reply was that they have asked some Arab states and some Iraqi financiers to set up a fund to which the United States would contribute sums equal to the sums collected for the Iraqi cause. The sums collected so far amount to $50 million. The United States has allocated an equal sum. Not a single cent of that has been spent yet.

[Shihab] Who financed the opposition's activities, conferences, and travel in the past?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] It was Iraqi-financed. We have all the names of the contributors, but, to spare them any trouble, we will not make them public.

[Shihab] Did the U.S. officials make any reference to the Iraqis who squandered the $40 million?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] No, we did not broach that, and they did not mention it. In the present circumstances, we need all the opposition, and I believe that revealing the details of this matter would harm the opposition's reputation. That is not in our interest.

[Shihab] Do you believe that the Iraqi people should know who received the money and who wasted it?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] A day will come when everything will be revealed.

[Shihab] How long will the Iraqi opposition remain just an opposition of conferences, meetings, and visits to Western capitals?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] A continuing opposition abroad, without bases and roots inside Iraq, would fail. We operate at home and abroad equally. We have positions that we are eager to strengthen. We will reveal our cards when the time comes.

[Shihab] If we exclude the Kurdish opposition, how popular are the other opposition leaders inside Iraq?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] The Islamic opposition inside Iraq has presence and weight. Everyone in the region can sense that. It is no secret that, at one stage, we were about to declare a general mutiny and uprising, but, after making our own assessment taking into consideration our experience of past uprisings against the regime in at least 10 governorates and the lack of response from foreign states, we decided to wait for the right time, to spare the people's blood.

INC Members on Opposition Goals, 'Federalism'

NC2705202993 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Major General Hasan Mustafa al-Naqib, member of the Presidential Council of the Iraqi National Congress [INC], told our radio today that the congress' doors are open to other Iraqi opposition forces seeking to rid our people of Saddam's terrorist regime. Maj. Gen. al-Naqib said that the Iraqi opposition has a long record of struggle.

Calling for cooperation among Iraqi opposition forces, Maj. Gen. al-Naqib said that the INC does not have a monopoly on opposition. The INC, he said, aims to deliver the Iraqi people from their ordeal in cooperation with other Iraqi opposition forces and with help from our Arab brothers, foremost Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

Meanwhile, Dr. Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, also a member of the INC Presidential Council, today told our radio that the INC has a geographic, not sectarian, structure.

For his part, Mas'ud Barzani, Democratic Party of Kurdistan leader and INC Presidential Council member, told our radio that federalism [al-fidraliyah] would strengthen Iraqi unity. He said that what jeopardizes Iraqi unity is the destruction caused by Saddam's regime.

Delegation Prepares Working Paper on Gaza First

TA2805075093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 May 93

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] During the seventh round of peace talks, when the issue of Gaza First was hotly debated in Israel, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, wanted to hear what his Israeli interlocutors had to say about this issue. Silence ensued in the negotiating room, and then the Israelis told the Palestinians that they had no directives from Jerusalem concerning this issue and that, therefore, they could not answer.

When the 10th round of talks commence, apparently in about two weeks, the Israelis will bring with them answers regarding this issue. Following the remarks made by Prime Minister Rabin regarding the possibility of implementing the interim arrangements in Gaza first, it was decided to introduce this issue into the working papers of the Israeli delegation to the talks. Even though this is not the central issue that the Israeli delegation is preparing for the resumption of the talks, it is certainly on the agenda. Prime Minister Rabin did not give the delegation members additional information regarding his intentions on Gaza First, and if the Palestinians raise this issue, the Israeli delegation will quote the prime minister's remarks verbatim, to wit: After an agreement-in-principle is reached on the interim arrangement, it will be possible to implement it in Gaza first. The Palestinians will not receive additional clarifications regarding the concept of an agreement-in-principle. At the same time, sources in the Israeli delegation emphasize that Israel has no intentions of raising the issue of Gaza First at this stage and that the working paper has been prepared only as an answer to a possible question by the Palestinians.

Meanwhile Jerusalem is encouraged by the agreement of the Palestinians to attend the preparatory talks in Washington. Israeli sources assess that if the Palestinians agree to discuss with the Americans the contents of the bridging document, this would constitute a significant progress toward a joint Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles. The attainment of such a declaration is the main objective of Israel in the 10th round of talks.

U.S. Requests Details on Construction in Territories

TA2805081693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 May 93 pp A1, 10

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpt] The United States yesterday sent Israel a set of questions on construction in the territories and East Jerusalem in connection with approving the transfer of immigrant absorption loan guarantees to the tune of $2 billion. It is the first set of questions forwarded to Israel as part of the decision to approve the guarantees made by the previous administration.

The Americans want precise details on the scope of building of roads, public structures, and water and sewage infrastructure in the territories and East Jerusalem in order to offset those investments from the loan guarantees. The document is toughly worded and stresses the importance of accuracy in the transmission of data. A political source in Jerusalem reported that the wording is similar to that used by the Bush administration to offset investments in settlements and East Jerusalem from the $400 million loan guarantee transferred to Israel several years ago.

A delegation of U.S. officials is coming here next month to discuss the granting of the loan guarantees. The questions are in preparation of that visit. It also shows for the first time that the Clinton administration remains loyal to the U.S. policy that East Jerusalem is occupied territory.

It was learned in Jerusalem that the senior U.S. official quoted yesterday in a lecture to American journalists specializing in foreign affairs spoke with the authority and permission of Secretary of State Warren Christopher. According to reports reaching Jerusalem, Christopher used the official to transfer a message to Israel and the Arabs that the administration might withdraw from the Middle East peace process if the sides do not show more flexibility.

The signal is also aimed at receiving responses in order to decide on a possible Christopher visit to Israel and the Arab states after his planned visit to Turkey in the coming days.

There is currently a debate in the State Department between Dan Kurtzer and Aaron Miller, who support more active U.S. involvement, and Sam Lewis and Martin Indyk, who recommend keeping a low profile to Christopher. [passage omitted]

Shohat Comments on Query

TA2805083293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 May 93

[Telephone interview with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat by Qobi Meydan and Gilat Levi—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Levi] Mr. Shohat, the main headline in today's HA'ARETZ edition reads that the U.S. Administration is demanding that Israel give precise details regarding the building activity in the territories prior to the granting of the immigrant absorption loan guarantees. This is a demand that the Bush administration has already raised, so it is not new. Now, however, it appears that the Clinton administration is raising the same issue. What is the significance of this in terms of the loan guarantees?

[Shohat] When we signed the loan guarantees agreement we knew—and this was also made public knowledge—

that the United States said that we are to receive approximately a $2 billion in loan guarantees in the first year, whereas in the following years the investments inside Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will be checked, and the total sum of government investments in these areas will be subtracted from the loan guarantees, so there is nothing new here.

[Meydan] Do you think, however, that the U.S. document is too detailed? Is it possible that Israel will have reservations regarding the quantity and accuracy of the questions posed?

[Shohat] Perhaps this issue should be examined. Incidentally, both the Budget and the Accountant General's Departments in the Finance Ministry prepared a permanent apparatus for reporting on this issue that will be able to absorb all the necessary figures. We sincerely want to adhere to the agreement with the Americans.

[Meydan] Is it possible, however, that beyond posing these questions to us, the publicity given to this document at the present time has a political significance and that it serves as a signal to the Palestinians?

[Shohat] Maybe. I want to repeat, however, that this document does not constitute a novelty. It is an outcome of our agreements with the United States and of Congressional decisions. Perhaps the significance lies in the timing, but I really believe that the timing results from the fact that the document has simply reached us recently, and this is a technical matter. We have to report about the investments made between October 1992 and October 1993 because this constitutes the annual framework for checking the investments made in the territories. I am therefore not convinced that it has a political significance of serving as a signal to the Palestinians. I am more inclined to believe that it is simply the outcome of the technical nature of the report.

[Levi] Thank you very much, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat.

European States Said Pressing Syria on Talks

TA2705182093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Reports reaching Jerusalem today indicate that some West European countries are trying to persuade the Palestinians and Syria to moderate their positions in order to ensure the future of the peace efforts in the Middle East and the success of the upcoming round of talks in Washington. The reports said that these European countries are acting with the prompting of the U.S. Administration. The reports noted that Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, failed to persuade representatives from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine to alter their position opposing the peace talks. The two fronts are insisting on suspending the talks in return for resuming the dialogue between them and the PLO.

Meretz Rejects 'Insulting' Rabin Offer to Aloni

TA2805152093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] A meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the Meretz ministers ended several minutes ago without any results. Environment Minister Yosi Sarid said at the end of the meeting that he had made it clear to the prime minister that the party considers the proposal he made to Minister Aloni unacceptable and that Meretz expects the prime minister to honor the agreement that stipulates that things will revert to their previous state—meaning that Aloni will reassume the education and culture portfolio on 30 May, and the government will rely on the support of 61 Knesset members.

Our party affairs correspondent Sheli Yehimovich reports that approximately 30 minutes ago, Minister Aloni slammed the door and left the meeting. She described Prime Minister Rabin's proposal as insulting. The prime minister proposed giving Shulamit Aloni the communications and arts portfolio, including responsibility for the Israel Broadcasting Authority; however, according to the proposal, Aloni would not be in charge of the Educational Television channel, the film authority, the Information Center, community centers, the Israel Antiquities Authority and Heritage Excavations, colleges, and adult education. Minister Aloni was also not offered the science portfolio, which Meretz believed it would get. Shulamit Aloni said she had thought that Yitzhaq Rabin—not Arye Der'i—is the prime minister.

Rabin Says Crisis Deadlocked

TA2805153893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 May 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that the coalition crisis has reached a deadlock and that there is nothing more absurd than the fact that the parties now find themselves in such a situation because of minor issues of absolutely no significance. Following his meetings with Meretz and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] officials today, Rabin said that he had made a proposal that did not depreciate Meretz's standing in any field. Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovich reports that Rabin said that there is no dispute over the fact that the present government has scored great accomplishments. It has promoted the peace process and initiated plans to resolve the unemployment problem.

Several Labor ministers told our correspondent that they believe the prime minister is considering a complete cabinet reshuffle or, alternatively, going to the president to receive a new mandate to form a government. [passage omitted]

Immediately following the prime minister's meeting with the Meretz ministers, Minister Arye Der'i was summoned to the prime minister's bureau. This follows his meeting with the prime minister several hours ago, in

which he heard the same proposal Rabin later made to Meretz, stipulating that Shulamit Aloni would receive the communications and arts portfolio, including responsibility for the Israel Broadcasting Authority. Minister Der'i said that his party is opposed to Shulamit Aloni being in charge of the Broadcasting Authority, adding that Prime Minister Rabin had requested that Der'i inform him of Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef's [SHAS spiritual mentor] reaction on Saturday evening, 29 May. Minister Der'i told our correspondent that if Shulamit Aloni returns to the Education Ministry on Sunday, he will resign at once.

Opposition Resubmits No-Confidence Motions

TA2805091493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] The Likud and Tzomet Knesset factions have resubmitted the no-confidence motions that they decided to postpone following the accidental death of the four paratroopers in south Lebanon. Our correspondent Rina Matzliah reports that the two factions raised the motion against the background of what they term the government's inept handling of foreign affairs, security, economic, and welfare issues.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 27 May adds: "The Moledet Knesset faction has resubmitted a no-confidence motion against the government due to the failure of the Washington talks between the Israeli, Palestinian, and Arab delegations."]

Outside Investigation Into IDF Accident Rejected

TA2705155693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] According to an initial debriefing of the operational accident in Lebanon [on 24 May], it transpires that the soldiers followed all procedures; therefore the question why the accident occurred remains unresolved, Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

The chief of staff told the committee that the incident involved a paratrooper company that had been problematic in the past, but its commander, Captain Ben-David, who was killed a month ago, had converted it into one of the best companies in the Army. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq presented the committee with data showing that there has been a gradual decline in casualties inflicted in IDF [Israel Defense Forces] accidents. Since the start of the year, seven soldiers have been killed, including the four who fell in Lebanon. For a mother who loses her son, it does not matter in which accident he was killed, but we must recall the true situation, Baraq said.

Earlier, the cabinet heard a report on the accident, and the ministers expressed firm opposition to handing the investigation to an outside element. They believe the appointment of an external investigator could tarnish the Army's image.

Gaza Residents Allowed To Attend Jerusalem Prayers

NC2805130493 Paris AFP in English 1228 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Gaza city, occupied Gaza Strip, May 28 (AFP)—Israel has authorised 400 Muslim worshippers from Gaza to attend Friday prayers in Jerusalem for the first time since the closure of the territory in March, Palestinians said.

But 30 Palestinians who wanted to join the group were turned back by the Israeli forces for "security reasons," the sources said.

The worshipers arrived in Jerusalem aboard eight buses after undergoing strict identity checks at the Erez crossing between the Gaza Strip and Israel proper.

Men and women were checked separately and their bags were also searched by the troops, the sources added.

Muslims from Gaza have been prevented from praying at al-Aqsa Mosque on Jerusalem's al-Haram al-Sharif, Islam's third holiest shrine after Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia, since Israel sealed off the Strip on March 29.

"Before the closure I always prayed in Jerusalem on Friday," a woman worshiper told AFP.

"When I heard the news on the radio that Israel was allowing us to go to Jerusalem I didn't believe it until I actually got on the bus," she said.

Israeli radio said that thousands of Muslims from the occupied West Bank, which was also closed by Israel at the end of March, prayed Friday in Jerusalem without any incidents.

Last week Israel allowed 7,000 Muslims from the West Bank to attend the prayers.

Israel sealed off the territories indefinitely after the killings of 15 Israelis in March.

Jew Murdered in Hebron; Curfew Imposed

TA2805151893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] A Jewish resident of Qiryat Arba' was murdered in Hebron this afternoon, when he came to pray in the Cave of the Patriarchs.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the man had set out along the path used by worshipers from Qiryat Arba' to the Cave of the Patriarchs early, before the route had been secured. Near the town's casbah, he was attacked by one or two terrorists who stabbed him with

knives and then fled the scene. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol, which arrived on secure the route, found the Jewish man lying in a pool of blood. A medical team pronounced him dead.

A curfew has been clamped on Hebron, and large army forces have launched a manhunt for the murderers.

Report on Intifadah Incidents Over Holiday

TA2705154593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 May 93 p A4

[Report by army affairs correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Five Palestinians were injured over the holiday in clashes with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the Gaza Strip. Four people were injured two days ago in Rafah, and yesterday one resident was injured in Gaza.

Two Palestinians were injured yesterday evening in incidents on the West Bank. Clashes also took place in Ramallah and Janin. Shots were reportedly fired at an IDF patrol in Rafah. There were no casualties, and no damage was caused.

There was a violent confrontation between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad supporters on the evening of 25 May in Rafah. The Hamas activists torched the 'Abd-al-Rahman mosque, which belongs to the Islamic Jihad. The Hamas supporters burned down the mosque's library and attacked and severely wounded an Islamic Jihad activist.

Palestinian sources reported that there was high tension between the two groups. [passage omitted]

A special investigation team from the Jerusalem District's Old City police force recently arrested a gang of youths belonging to Fatah, which operated in East Jerusalem.

The members of the squad are suspected of torching cars and throwing firebombs.

The team of detectives, headed by Superintendent Avraham Shamni, has so far arrested 12 suspects, including the 19-and-a-half-year-old leader of the gang, who recruited and operated the other squad members, aged 15 to 18, all residents of East Jerusalem.

The squad, known as the "Black Panthers," operated for about a year. Its members admitted to torching nine Israeli cars, throwing four firebombs at Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon's house in the Old City's Hagay Street, hurling stones at Israeli cars near the Damascus Gate, and spraying graffiti.

[An ITIM report on the same page of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 27 May notes that "a small explosive charge was placed on 25 May near the home of the Daniyel family in Jerusalem's Arnona neighborhood's Kefar 'Etzyon Street. A similar explosive charge was discovered at the beginning of the week and also safely dismantled."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 27 May reports that "in Jerusalem, there were more tire slashings. This time of 30 Arab-owned cars. The cars were in Wadi al-Jawz, Abu-Tor, Bayt Safafa and Old City areas. A statement transmitted last night to reporters said that the tires had been punctured by the Kakh group, in response to the slashing of more than 80 Jewish-owned vehicles this week."]

Arab Woman Seriously Wounded

TA2705151393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 May 93

[Excerpts] Today a young Arab woman attempted to stab a Border Police officer near the Western Wall in Jerusalem. The policeman shot the assailant, inflicting serious head injuries. An Israeli woman standing nearby was wounded in the back from shrapnel; no details about her condition are available. [passage omitted]

The assailant and the wounded Israeli were evacuated to Hadassah- 'En Kerem Hospital.

IDF Rejects Amnesty International Allegations

TA2705181693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] The Israel Army spokesman has rejected Amnesty International allegations of opening fire indiscriminately in the Gaza Strip and killing innocent passersby. The report was issued in London today. Harley Braidman has the main points of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] reaction:

On 28 March, it was decided to cordon off Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. During the closure, the IDF initiated operations to capture wanted men. So far, about half of the wanted people have been caught. About 10 percent have been killed in clashes with Army forces. The IDF uses all legal means to capture the wanted men and armed terrorists.

During the whole period of the closure, there have been violations of public order, often violence against the security forces who sometimes find themselves in life-endangering situations and are forced to open fire against the disturbers of public order. The Israel Army completely rejects the claim that the security forces open fire indiscriminately. It should be noted that a considerable proportion of those killed are violent, wanted, and dangerous men, and not innocent passersby, as implied in the report. Unfortunately, during such clashes between our forces and the disturbers of the peace, children are casualties of the shooting of our men, the IDF says. Most of the children are hurt in error as a result of being on the scene. As a rule, the instructions on

opening fire ban IDF shooting at children, and exceptions are handled accordingly. Every fatal incident is investigated by local commanders and by the military police investigators. In the event of an officer or a soldier acting illegally, the military prosecutor adopts legal steps against him. In view of the escalation in the severity of incidents recently, the security forces have adopted stringent measures to prevent terror in general and foil the operations of the wanted men in particular and capture them.

The distinction between innocent local residents and the perpetrators of hostile terrorist activity intent on war is a basic principle of IDF activity in the territories. In the light of this the IDF determines its pattern of action, in order to reduce harm to lives and property of the population to the minimum. The system of operation of the IDF against wanted men is based primarily on credible information as far as possible. Prior to gaining control of homes of wanted men, security precautions are adopted to avoid loss of life. In such operations, steps are taken to allow armed and wanted men to surrender without any harm coming to them. These methods were adopted after a protracted drawing of conclusions from previous incidents, to minimize the dangers to Israeli soldiers and the lives of innocent residents. As a result, only in one incident in the Gaza Strip since 1 January did a Palestinian get hurt in the Army's efforts to gain control of the homes of wanted men, the IDF says.

Rabin, General on Terrorist Activities in Lebanon

TA2705165993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that Hizballah's terror against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] has recently become fiercer and more unrelenting, expanding its activities and diversifying its operating methods. Most of the IDF casualties are caused by roadside bombs, he noted.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that briefing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command, said there has been a distinct rise in the number of incidents in south Lebanon in the past month. The terrorists plant dozens of bombs, of which 80 percent are uncovered and safely defused, he pointed out.

Spokesman: Bodies Held by Amal Not IDF Soldiers

TA2705185493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] A forensic examination of the two bodies belonging, according to Amal leader Nabih Birri, to IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, showed beyond any doubt that the corpses are not those of IDF soldiers. The IDF spokesman has told our army affairs correspondent that families of missing servicemen have been notified of the findings of the examination.

Deputy Minister Gur Praises U.S. Steps Against Iran

TA2805073993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 May 93

[Telephone Interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur by Qobi Meydan and Gilat Levi—live]

[Text] [Meydan] THE NEW YORK TIMES has reported that the United States is acting toward preventing any economic and military aid reaching Iran by a third country, in order to prevent it from becoming a regional power. U.S. officials told the newspaper that the U.S. Administration now believes Iran must be dealt with as firmly as the administration deals with Iraq.

Deputy Defense Minister Gur, are we witnessing the beginning of a new stage in U.S. and world policy toward Iran—to wit, abandoning the hope of rehabilitation, so to speak, and moving toward what could take the shape of an international embargo?

[Gur] First, it is very significant that both the United States and Europe are coming to realize the danger emanating from the Iranian policy not only to our region, but to the entire world. It will undoubtedly be extremely difficult to curb this great danger, the Iranian danger, without international cooperation. I sincerely hope that the United States is coming to realize this fact. It is hard for me to say whether this will result in a tougher U.S. policy vis-a-vis Iran. I can only note that this change is vital.

[Levi] If the Iranians indeed pose a danger, it appears that it is mainly directed toward Israel. What chance does the United States have of convincing its allies to support the steps against Iran, if those steps are mainly aimed at protecting Israel?

[Gur] One of the lessons of the Gulf War is that it is very hard to define the boundaries of wars. The world has already realized that we are not dealing here with a war against Israel, but rather with a very serious regional danger. Today the international strategic thinking is much more comprehensive and general. It does not limit itself to the field of one-on-one, but rather strives to prevent regional wars. The nascent U.S. strategic conception concerns the United States' ability to get involved in and solve regional crises. It no longer considers it as the personal problem of this or that country, but rather as concerning a much larger system.

[Meydan] We are speaking here about a very intensive effort by Iran, and about a large-scale preventive operation of the international community.

[Gur] You are absolutely correct.

[Meydan] Where do you think should this activity concentrate? What is the greatest and most tangible danger?

[Gur] The main activity should be devoted to completely preventing means and technologies from reaching Iran, both from the West and the Far East. This calls for comprehensive cooperation. Second, control mechanisms must be developed, and today the international community has extensive experience in arms control. This has to be done in order to ascertain that Iran will not be able to threaten its neighbors or world peace.

[Meydan] Over the last few months, there have been reports concerning the leak of nuclear know-how from the former Soviet Union to Iran. To the best of your knowledge, has this leak been sealed?

[Gur] This is one of the most serious breaches, and the Russians are very sensitive to this issue. I have no doubt that the main U.S. pressure in this issue is directed toward Russia and the republics. I do not know what will happen in practice, but in theory, everybody, including the Russians, agree that the Iranian threat is real. If the United States develops a clear policy aimed at foiling the Iranian nuclear ambitions, I believe it will be able to muster worldwide support, including Russian support.

[Levi] Thank you, Deputy Minister Gur.

U.S. 6th Fleet Said To Pose Nuclear Hazard

TA2805114093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 May 93 p B5

[Article by Tzafrir Rinat: "There Are Snakes in Washington"]

[Excerpts] The chances of getting hurt in an accident involving a nuclear reactor are similar to the chances of being bitten by a snake while crossing a street in downtown Washington, a director of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission once said. This is the spirit (which reflects full confidence in the reliability of its nuclear facilities) in which the United States manages the nuclear equipment aboard U.S. Navy ships and submarines. Dozens of ships and submarines outfitted with nuclear reactors (and, apparently, also with nuclear weapons) have called on the Port of Haifa in recent years to take advantage of its services. Access to the Qishon shipyards has recently been expanded in order to encourage more U.S. ships to visit, among other things. During his last visit to the United States, the prime minister raised the possibility of turning Haifa into the home port of the 6th Fleet, where its ships would undergo regular maintenance and repair work. [passage omitted]

Engineer Dan Lazar has meticulously documented public data published in the United States about accidents at nuclear reactors, and this has led him to caution about the danger inherent in permitting U.S. ships and submarines to dock at Haifa. "Eager to curry Washington's favor or for some other irresponsible reason," Lazar says, "the Israeli Government has turned Haifa into a port of call for U.S. vessels (ships and submarines) powered by nuclear energy and carrying nuclear weapons, unnecessarily risking the lives of hundreds of thousands of people."

A debate over allowing U.S. vessels to call at Israeli ports was conducted by the Israel Atomic Energy Commission's [IAEC] Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee back in the 1970's. "Nobody had the courage to say anything to the Americans," says Tzvi Kimmel, who heads the committee today and was then a member. Government levels pressed to allow access to U.S. vessels, and the committee decided that Israel would monitor the area around the ships. "The politicians sent us packing when we tried to press for checks aboard the ships," Kimmel says. "Even if we had been allowed aboard the ships and had inspected them, it would have made no difference, because the Americans would not have divulged to us any secret technical specifications or safety precautions. Some committee members argued that if we were not allowed to inspect them, the ships should not come, but the politicians decided otherwise."

The IAEC points out that special safety precautions, including monitoring work to ascertain that there are no leaks, are taken each time a nuclear vessel comes to Israel. There also are emergency contingency plans based, among other things, on arrangements for the rapid evacuation of the vessels to the high seas to prevent harm to the population and the coast. There is coordination on this issue among all the pertinent authorities, including the Israeli Navy, the Army's Medical Corps, and the Haifa Port Authority. The IAEC spokesman says there is a U.S. commitment to pay damages in the event of an accident. He did not say how they would go about a mass evacuation of the population in the event of a serious nuclear accident in the Haifa area or where the people would be evacuated to. [passage omitted]

The IAEC contends that U.S. safety criteria are acceptable to it. "The safety of nuclear reactors aboard U.S. vessels is particularly high," says IAEC spokesman Dr. Yitzhaq Lederman, "and to the best of our knowledge, they have not experienced any accidents. One must remember in this context that these reactors are particularly safe because they are meant to serve war vessels. The reports about safety problems referred to Russian vessels."

Tzvi Kimmel also trusts the Americans, and, in his opinion, their presence in Haifa does not pose an unacceptable safety hazard, as he puts it. The Environment Ministry joins the general consensus and makes do with the IAEC's promise to brief it each time a U.S. vessel docks in Haifa and to include its personnel in the monitoring work.

Dan Lazar has no doubt that IAEC personnel are well aware of the information about safety problems aboard U.S. Navy vessels. "We are one of the leading countries in the field of nuclear research," he says, "and the IAEC has large data banks. In my opinion, IAEC staffers chose

not to deal with the information in favor of the cooperation with the United States, which the Israeli Government is interested in." All that Lazar can do in the meantime is to cite the dry and menacing data once again. Research data presented to the UN International Atomic Energy Agency show that an accident in a minuscule reactor (0.1 megawatt) operating on dry air would necessitate the evacuation of the population within a 5-km radius, while food would be contaminated in a 30-km radius.

Lazar points out that typical nuclear reactors, including those aboard ships and submarines, have a 50- to 500-megawatt output and cause a constant change in wind velocity and humidity levels. Consequently, an accident in such a reactor would necessitate administering first aid, including special pills to neutralize radioactivity that people would have to ingest within minutes of exposure. An accident in such a reactor would necessitate the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of people for whom housing would have to be found.

Arianespace To Launch 'Amos Satellite in 1995

TA2805111993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Arianespace announced it has signed an agreement to launch the Israeli communications satellite 'Amos into orbit in 1995. The European company says that Israel Aircraft Industries and MBT Systems and Space Technologies signed the agreement on Israel's behalf.

Arab Ministers Invited to Coordination Talks

JN2705181293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Foreign ministers of the Arab states engaged in the bilateral peace negotiations—Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine—in addition to the Egyptian foreign minister, are to hold coordination talks in Amman on 6 June.

Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has sent out invitations to the four foreign ministers to attend the talks. They will coordinate future action and evaluate the state of the peace negotiations against the backdrop of the ninth round of the talks in Washington.

Paper Details King's Meeting With Press

JN2805103593 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 29 May 93 p 5

[By the local affairs editor]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's sudden request to meet with the chief editors of Jordan's newspapers left many of these chief editors with the impression that something important had to be behind the quick and unscheduled summons. During discussions on the sidelines, the chief editors engaged in a lot of guesswork, trying to uncover the possible motives behind the quick meeting. Some expected the meeting to produce important state decisions. Others imagined King Husayn might announce some good news to the Jordanian people via the national press. Despite that, the colleagues' guesswork did not lead them to the real issue that made the meeting necessary. That issue is democracy and media policy in the contemporary Jordanian press since the end of the Gulf tragedy, with its unfortunate consequences for the entire region.

His Majesty King Husayn's intentions were not understood as they should have been when he spoke about the nature of this sensitive, perilous, and difficult stage and the consequences of success or failure at all levels of this stage. While his majesty's warning against the enemies of democracy reassured the audience, it also raised many questions about the nature of the warning, the reasons behind it, and the parties he was warning. In addition, his majesty's hope that no one in the audience could be recognized as running after material things at the expense of truth and right raised more questions about who those people are and why he expressed this hope.

These questions were left without specific answers until his majesty began his usual frank talk with the reporters. He noted, in particular, that some press treatments published in the Jordanian press before the meeting had an adverse impact on the constants of Jordan's policy and positions. Indeed, these treatments contradicted those positions and the balanced, positive policy that sought to heal the rift that immediately followed the end of the Gulf crisis, as well as to overcome the results of that crisis and to call for intra-Arab reconciliation. His majesty began his talk with his position on Iraq and the Gulf crisis in order to explain the truth about the balanced Jordanian stand that has existed since the first signs of a crisis in the Gulf. He recalled Jordan's positions on rejecting the occupation of Kuwait and on the extent of the danger that would follow such a step. His majesty explained his persistent efforts to peacefully contain the crisis and to minimize its tragic consequences, known to all as intra-Arab division, the dangers of a divided Iraq, and the magnitude of the Iraqi people's tribulation resulting from the embargo imposed on them. He noted many of his efforts to bring Iraq out of this situation reached an impasse.

His majesty said that despite all the concern and neutrality during the crisis, Jordan paid an expensive price in a crisis to which it was not a party.

It was apparent in his remarks that his majesty wanted to emphasize to the Jordanian press that Jordan wants to maintain both a balanced position and positive neutrality on controversial Arab issues. Most likely, his majesty addressed this issue because he sensed the Jordanian press is continuing to adopt a media role that is biased toward one party at the expense of another, something not in line, in any way whatsoever, with the constants of Jordanian policy. These constants now require a balanced media policy without reference to the circumstances of the dispute during the Gulf crisis.

His majesty wanted to outline for those responsible for formulating Jordanian press policy the broad lines of Jordanian foreign policy at this critical stage in Jordan's and the region's history, a stage that expeditiously requires a balanced media that does not address one party at the expense of the other and that does not praise one party by attacking and criticizing another. His majesty reiterated that his discussion of the Gulf crisis and Iraq does not represent a new line, but is a reaffirmation of the firm Jordanian stand that has rejected and continues to reject a repetition of the events in the Gulf. This was in the nature of an explanation to the audience to correct the misunderstandings of some journalists that this balanced policy means Jordan is now assessing events in the Gulf differently that it has since the start of the crisis. This is what made his majesty explicitly say: We hope Iraq emerges from all this and achieves national reconciliation because the Iraqi people are what is important to us.

The peace process and related developments was the other topic his majesty wanted the press to tackle with care by rising to the level of national responsibility when dealing with it. His majesty explained Jordan's stand on how to approach the peace process and the hopes pinned to it. Jordan has entered this process without calculation or illusion, dealing with it only as a means to defend its national rights and legitimate pan-Arab rights.

His majesty's praise of the Palestinian negotiator, his eagerness to safeguard the Palestinian people's unity, and the emphasis he placed on the unique relationship

between the Palestinian and Jordanian leaderships were meant to have the Jordanian media refrain from magnifying intra-Palestinian differences and to approach this sensitive issue with objectivity and a high sense of responsibility.

In any case, his majesty's meeting with the chief editors of Jordanian papers is expected to be the beginning of new, balanced media handling of Arab and local affairs, particularly after the journalists have have had the chance to get a clear picture of the broad lines of Jordanian foreign policy on these most sensitive Arab issues: the Gulf crisis and its repercussions and the peace process and its developments.

AL-HAYAH Report Denounced

JN2805081393 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 29 May 93 p 5

[Text] The Press and Publications Department has banned AL-HAYAH newspaper from entering Jordan after it published details about His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with the chief editors of local papers. Unconfirmed reports say the Press and Publications Department has also banned the circulation of AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI for publishing a report about the same meeting.

'Isa al-Jahmani, director of the Press and Publications Department, says AL-HAYAH was banned for publishing distorted and inaccurate information about his majesty the king's meeting with the chief editors of local papers.

Al-Jahmani told SHIHAN that the AL-HAYAH correspondent reported distorted information, even though he did not attend the meeting. He said such reports will damage Jordan's relations with sisterly states.

Al-Jahmani asserts that the valid Press and Publications Law gives his department the right to ban a paper if it distorts facts. He said the application of that law is a healthy sign for democracy. He also said his department will take legal steps against the AL- HAYAH correspondent if the law allows it to do so.

Al-Jahmani denied his department has banned AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI and THE GUARDIAN from entering Jordan for the same reasons.

Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif launched an attack against what AL-HAYAH published, saying the report on the king's statements was a "forgery." He added: They have taken his words out of context. He said that what was published aimed to appease a certain party and antagonize another. He stressed that what was published will damage Jordan's relations with neighboring states.

The king has not mentioned any party or journalist by name in his statements because all journalists in this country have an affiliation with Jordan, al-Sharif said.

Al-Sharif added that the AL-HAYAH correspondent did not bother to authenticate what he heard. He said: What he wrote was not journalism. It was an attempt to sell political narcotics. The minister denounced this action and said: We condemn such an irresponsible act of journalism.

Swiss Government Transforms Debt Into Grant

JN2705170193 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] The Swiss Government has agreed to transform Jordan's 18 million dollars debt to Switzerland into a grant.

PETRA news agency quoted a Finance Ministry official as saying a Swiss delegation would arrive in the fall to work out details of an agreement reached last week in Amman.

A Swiss Embassy spokesman confirmed the PETRA report and said the grant would be used to finance development projects.

Columnist Questions Aims of U.S. Envoy

JN2705120293 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 27 May 93 p 24

[Article by Fahd al-Rimawi: "The Psalms of His Excellency the Ambassador"]

[Text] U.S. High Commissioner Mr. Harrison is moving freely in our country without observing diplomatic traditions, appreciating the significance of a government warning, or fearing the consequences of popular wrath. Nor, it seems, does he fear sudden attack.

Even though the most basic rules and regulations governing diplomatic norms dictate that ambassadors should accord due respect to the sovereignty of host countries and ban them from interfering in the host countries' domestic affairs, his excellency the ambassador—sorry, the U.S. High Commissioner—has continued to violate our national independence, and to do things to pollute our political life as well as our pan-Arab and Islamic choices through the many and continuous meetings he is holding with chairmen of municipal councils, leaders of political parties and economic institutions, as well as officials of social, scientific, information, and humanitarian bodies.

Despite the fact that the U.S. Administration has recently issued a brief strongly worded statement, affirming that the security situation in Jordan is worrying and precarious, and advised its nationals not to visit Jordan or tour areas in Jordan, his excellency the envoy of the U.S. providence has, for the past three years, been touring Jordan, holding suspect meetings in northern and southern Jordan, and frequenting public as well as private places in broad daylight without any restrictions or supervision.

Given all this, we are bewildered by the "politeness" of the Foreign Ministry, which we believe to be an affiliate of the Jordanian Government. It has chosen to turn a blind eye to the activities of Mr. Harrison to the extent that the latter has begun to believe that Jordan is a banana republic or an oil shaykhdom, and to act condescendingly as if he were a person enjoying exceptional privileges who could violate diplomatic norms, act against local and international laws, recruit spies and aides in the name of traditional friendship, and promote the literature of Zionization, capitulation, and alienation, contending that they are some of the requirements of the future phase.

The fact that some very popular figures and symbols of the civil community, be they party leaders, media persons, academics, economists, or trade unionists, have allowed themselves to receive the ambassador of a hostile country at their offices or to visit him at his citadel, which is full of espionage devices and surrounded by electronic fencing, is something we deem very strange. These leaders have allowed him to raise a host of issues and concerns regarding Jordanian domestic affairs, which he should not be allowed to discuss at all.

We might find excuses for the way successive Jordanian Governments have treated U.S. ambassadors, given the unequal ties existing between the sole superpower and the weakling Arab order. But what could be the excuse of popular forces and leaders of the civil community who succumbed to imperialist wishes and opened up to the ambassador, who has deliberately chosen to violate national taboos and to interfere in issues and problems that are purely domestic and Jordanian?

A few years ago, I received an invitation for a one-month visit to Washington to tour most U.S. states. The response that I gave to the person who carried the invitation to me is that I would not visit a country which launched an undeclared war against our nation and which extends public support to our enemy. Approximately, a year ago, Mr. Silverman, the second or third in command at the U.S. Embassy then, called me and requested a meeting, given that I failed in my bid for a seat during the previous parliamentary elections. I firmly turned down this request, saying that I would not receive a Jew in my office, even if he were an American citizen.

In brief, what does Mr. Harrison want to tell us, to insinuate to us, or to do by all these maneuvers, moves, and crude interferences?

Does he want to tamper with national unity and with the Jordanians' sound internal front?

Does he want to depict himself as "a power center," and to consequently insinuate that the central authority of the Jordanian state is weak?

Does he want to change the political climate here, and to win over the new leaders who are willing to accept a reconciliation with the Zionist enemy and endorse involvement in a regional Middle East conspiracy?

Does he want to "organize" a popular opposition tailored according to U.S. standards to use it to pressure the regime into making further political and economic concessions?

Does he want to examine the Jordanians' political temperament and to spy on their psychological condition in order to communicate such information to the Zionist study and intelligence centers, which are tasked with destroying the Arabs' morale?

Does he want to consummate the objectives meant to be achieved by the joint Jordanian-U.S. maneuvers, and the missions of the battleships which are laying siege to the port of al-'Aqabah?

Lastly, does his excellency, by his continuous moves and tours, want to provoke some extremists into attacking him so that Washington may move heaven and earth against "terrorism" in Jordan?

Finally, the only message we would like to address to his excellency the high commissioner can be summed up in the following Arabic proverb: "You, alien, be polite." Otherwise,....

Al-Hirawi Discusses Press Freedom, Peace Talks

NC2805103993 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 16 May 93 pp 1, 16

[Report on an interview with President Ilyas al-Hirawi by AL-DIYAR correspondent Muwaffaq Madani at al-Hirawi's residence in al-Hazimiyah, Beirut, on 15 May]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, President Ilyas al-Hirawi returned to his house in al-Hazimiyah from B'abda, where he was inspecting the renovation of the presidential palace, to find me waiting for him. Al-Hirawi and his family usually spend the weekend at their al-Hazimiyah residence. [passage omitted]

I asked him: In your speech at the inauguration of the Lebanese Press Association's new building, didn't you promise us—the journalists—to safeguard press freedom?

He paused before replying: "I said freedom comes before bread, didn't I?"

I said: "Yes."

He continued: "My position has not changed. I believed then that the Prosecutor's Office must refer the closure of newspapers to investigators to deal with such cases promptly. This must happen. The law is the law."

Al-Hirawi added: "I alone swore the constitutional oath. I swore to protect the Constitution and safeguard the law. No one else took this oath. I cannot break my oath. If anyone wants to depart from this rule, he must first amend or change the Constitution. As I said, I am not here to preside over a crisis, but to find a solution and shoulder my responsibilities in this respect. Someone misquoted me as saying that I carry my resignation in my pocket. I will not resign as long as I can find solutions. I do not need to put my resignation in my pocket as long as I have faith in Lebanon's revival and try to achieve that objective. It pains me to see a decline in standards among some people in public life. This must not continue. We must stop it, because national revival is not in tune with the spirit of decline that some people are trying to spread on every level of our private and public life. This must not continue."

I asked him: "Is it the fault of the newspapers and the journalists?"

He replied: "I specified no one. There is a spirit of decline in handling public affairs. The case of Henry Sfayr [the owner of Independent Cable News, ICN, and the newspaper NIDA' AL-WATAN] is different from that of the closure of AL-SAFIR. I was very patient with Sfayr. Every night I would stop watching other television stations and watch ICN. I could not believe what I saw and heard. The station was trying to arouse feelings and incite opponents against the state. I asked myself: How long can we wait? Until the state and its progress suffer a setback? [passage omitted]

I asked him about Lebanon's attitude to the Arab-Israeli negotiations as illustrated by the ninth round of talks.

He answered: "In these negotiations, as in all talks, things happen just as they do when I have discussions with President al-Asad. Do we prepare the details beforehand or only the main ideas? The details are left to the actual session of talks. The same happens in the negotiations. What is being discussed now are the main concepts. The details need a lot of give and take. When the major concepts are established, we will go into detail. I believe we need time before we can discuss the issues in detail. This does not disturb us. True, the situation in the south, a dear part of the homeland, worries us and puts pressure on us, but we can establish the state's authority over the remaining 88 percent of the country's territory. We can exercise patience until the liberation process is completed. Negotiations need time. I cannot agree to take a step before I see Israel withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. This is our constant position. While waiting for a comprehensive solution, we will continue to negotiate to liberate the south and al-Biqa' al-Gharbi."

AL-SHARQ Suspended for Insulting President

NC2805114693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] A public prosecutor in Beirut has issued a decision suspending the newspaper AL-SHARQ for one week and seizing its issues. The following is the text of the decision:

After reviewing the 28 May issue of the newspaper AL-SHARQ, we have noticed that it contains a cartoon that shows contempt for the president of the country. In accordance with Articles 23 and 25 of the publications law, I, Fawzi Abu-Murad, Beirut public prosecutor, have decided to suspend the newspaper AL-SHARQ for one week and to seize its issues. This decision shall be implemented through the Public Security General Directorate.

The public prosecutor has also filed charges against 'Awni Khayri al-Ka'ki, director general and chief editor of AL-SHARQ, and has referred him to first magistrate in Beirut Sa'id Mirza, who decided to interrogate him on 3 June.

Al-Hariri, IMF Delegation Discuss Cooperation

NC2805095593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has met in Quraytim with Paul Chabrier, head of the IMF Middle East Department, and his accompanying delegation.

Fu'ad Sinyurah, minister of state for financial affairs, attended the meeting during which the conferees reviewed projects that Lebanon intends to implement in various fields.

Chabrier said afterward that the discussion dealt with cooperation between Lebanon and the IMF and studies and programs compiled by the Lebanese side. Sinyurah said they reviewed steps taken by the Lebanese Government which the delegation appreciated. He added that the delegation briefed al-Hariri on the report to be distributed to countries offering aid to Lebanon.

Trade Cooperation Document Signed With Poland

NC2705203593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] A ceremony was held at the Lebanese Economy and Trade Ministry today for the signing of a Lebanese-Polish draft trade agreement. (Zbigniew Okonski), secretary of state at the Polish Ministry of External Economic Affairs, and Hajop Demerdjiyan, Lebanese minister of economy and trade, attended the ceremony.

Demerdjian said we will do our best to enhance economic and commercial relations with Poland. Demerdjian said that Lebanon is regaining its vitality in all fields and that today's event is a sign that the economy is improving.

(Okonski) said there are many areas for possible bilateral cooperation. Poland, he added, can help Lebanon in its reconstruction efforts due to the technical expertise it gained in previous wars.

Fatah Official Escapes Assassination Attempt

NC2705052993 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Gunmen ambushed Major Muhammad Anwar of the Fatah Movement in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp last night. The major escaped unharmed when the gunmen fired at his car, killing his companion.

PFLP Claims Detonating Device Under Patrol

NC2705173593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has announced that one of its groups detonated an explosive under a mechanized patrol of the Israeli forces on the Rimat-Saydun road at 1145 today. The PFLP statement did not cite any casualties.

A security source reported that the Israeli forces in al-Zaffatah bombarded Mlita, al-Luwayzah, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, and the outskirts of Jba' in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Amal Movement Attacks Patrol, Inflicts Casualties

NC2705165593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Iqlim al-Tuffah came under fierce artillery fire from the occupation forces this afternoon. An Israeli plane overflew al-Nabatiyah at approximately the same time.

In another development, the Amal Movement's Operations Room announced that one of its units detonated an explosive charge as a mechanized patrol of the occupation forces and their agents was traveling along the Sidon-Rimat road. The blast destroyed a half-track vehicle and killed or wounded several of the patrol's personnel. The unit returned safely to base.

Raids Israeli-SLA Position

NC2805111593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1055 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] The Amal Movement has issued the following statement: Martyr Muhammad Hattab group launched a machine-gun and rocket attack on a position manned by the occupation forces and their agents [South Lebanese Army, SLA] in al-Suwayda' this morning. The group killed or wounded four enemy personnel, put one 12.7-mm machine gun out of action, and destroyed an observation tower.

Following the attack, the occupation forces shelled 'Arab Salim, Habbush, al-Wadi al-Akhdar, Kafr Rumman, and Jabal Sujud. The group returned safely to post.

Commentary Sees U.S. Bias, Israeli Evasion in Talks

JN2705175293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1134 GMT 27 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It is obvious that the Israeli way of dealing with the peace process seeks to move this process from one impasse to another, from the start to the end of every round of talks. The Israeli evasion of peace is characterized by a constant search for a way out whenever the dialogue reaches a substantial point. There is an Israeli mastery of discussing side and formal points at the peace talks and evading serious proposals by submitting other proposals that yield no results.

There are no Washington peace talks at the moment, but there is talk about what happened in the ninth round, which yielded nothing, or rather which created a new impasse. The Israeli side is responsible for the ninth round's failure to fulfill the made promises and achieve the set objectives. Israel did not abandon its negative positions hostile to the bases of the peace process. The country that launched the peace initiative, the United States, is also responsible for this failure. The United States announced that it wanted to play the role of a full partner. However, it failed to do so and did not give any proof that it intended to play this role with a view toward practically and seriously promoting the peace process.

Here, the full partner role should be discussed. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced that the United States intended to play this role to reassure the parties participating in the peace process that the country that launched the peace initiative intends to reactivate the peace process after the negative and intransigent Israeli positions totally paralyzed this process and deprived it of the required momentum.

No doubt, a full partner, as understood by the most naive people, is a side that regards itself as a party, and not a bystander, to the process that this party itself has launched. It is very dangerous for the whole peace process to keep the full-partner role swinging between the position of a bystander—who does not intervene—and intervention in favor of the intransigent party that obstructs and undermines the peace process. Concern for the peace process requires that this partner's steps, initiatives, and interventions be in line with affirmations and guarantees already made, not to mention the need for harmony with the bases of the peace process that were proposed to all parties from the very beginning. If any party departs from these bases or seeks to undermine them, the full partner should intervene to curb that party; otherwise, what is the meaning of sponsoring the peace process or launching the U.S. initiative from the very beginning?

Speaking more clearly, a full partner is a party that assumes its responsibility toward the peace process, just like the other parties—if not more—in its capacity as the party that launched and advocated the peace initiative. Such a responsibility requires a position other than that of a bystander, an observer, or a side biased toward the party that rejects real peace in the same manner as the proposal made by Martin Indyk, director of Near East and South Asian affairs at the U.S. National Security Council, in the name of strategic coordination between Washington and Israel.

It is true that the United States and Israel long ago announced their strategic alliance. This alliance, however, should stay away from the halls of the peace talks. This is because when Washington announced its initiative and set its agreed foundations, the United States committed itself to these foundations. It is neither fair nor good manners that the foe also be a judge. Had it agreed to side with Israel rather than with the foundations of its own initiative, the United States would have canceled its own role as a fair broker and a just sponsor. Had Israel agreed on both of the bases of the peace process and the resolutions of international legitimacy, and had it agreed to abide by the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace, led by withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights, it would have been acceptable for the United States to side with Israel. But it is absoultely not understood or acceptable for the United States to side with the party that has thus far foiled nine rounds of talks and continues its intransigence and adherence to positions that conflict with both the bases of the peace process and the resolutions of international legitimacy. How could it be acceptable that the sponsor of the peace process sides with this negative party against the parties that responded to the United States and helped it launch the peace process, crystallize its bases, and hold the peace talks first in Madrid and later in Washington—parties that have maintained their full favorable response throughout the phases of the peace process?

The role of a full partner that sticks to the bases of the peace process and the resolutions of international legitimacy, as well as a just and comprehensive peace, is an acceptable and welcome role. Such a role can help activate the peace process toward its objectives. We hope that the United States will play such a role, as it has frequently announced. It will be unacceptable at any phase for the full partner role to turn into one of full solidarity with the negative party obstructing the peace process.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Forces Bomb Sarowbi Dam

BK2705115193 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 27 May 93 p 2

[Text] The forces loyal to Afghan President Prof Borhanoddin Rabbani on Wednesday [26 May] bombed a vital dam at Sarowbi which caused great damage to the dam. This dam was a major source of electricity supply to a vast part of Afghanistan [words indistinct] Kabul says PPI.

According to Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] sources in Peshawar the pro-Rabbani government planes dropped bombs at the said dam [words indistinct] to defense ministry also launched attacks against Hezb-e Eslami forces in Parwan province.

A spokesman of Hezb-e Eslami condemned the renewed attacks and appealed to the peace commission to intervene and stop further bloodshed. He said at a time when prime minister designate, Hekmatyar is making efforts to convene the cabinet meeting to pave way for a stable government in Kabul fresh hostilities like bombing of Sarowbi Dam area were indeed highly dangerous and would further fuel fighting in Kabul.

* Hekmatyar Reported in Kabul Palace

93P50193A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 May 93 p 4

[Text] Peshawar—Afghan sources near Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar have told AL-HAYAH that two days ago he moved to Kabul where he took the Dar-ol Aman Palace southeast of the capital as his headquarters. The Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], which he heads, took over the palace from government forces during recent battles which killed 2,000 and wounded 5,000.

This is the first time that Hekmatyar has entered Kabul since 1974, when he left it with the current president, Borhanoddin Rabbani, for Pakistan to fight the Mohammad Dawud regime.

The sources disclosed that Hekmatyar will soon head up the cabinet in the Dar-ol Aman Palace to announce the dissoution of the previous government and the assumption of the new government that was formed in Jalalabad of its tasks in practice. 'Abdol 'Aziz Morad, the official spokesman for the president, believes that [the president] intends the prime minister to reside in he government complexes in the middle of the capital.

In addition, the cease-fire between the contending groups has been put into force, and Kabul yesterday remained peaceful for the second day in a row.

Bangladesh

Burmese Minister Discusses Rohingya Repatriation

BK2705134693 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] The home minister of Burma, Lieutenant General Mya Thinn, has said that the repatriation of Burmese refugees will be completed as soon as possible. Speaking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport today prior to his departure upon the completion of his four-day official visit to Bangladesh, the Burmese minister said that the repatriation will continue until the last Rohingya refugee returns.

He said, however, there is no question of a time frame for repatriation. In reply to a question, the Burmese minister said that this would be a permanent solution to the refugee problem between the two countries. [sentence as heard] Concerning the signing of the border agreement between the two countries, he said it will be signed as soon as minor details in this regard are worked out. He said our two borders are very peaceful and this peace has prevailed for a long time.

The Burmese home minister said he has made this goodwill visit in order to develop ties between the two brotherly countries. He added that his visit was a complete success. He left Dhaka for Rangoon via Singapore. Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury bade farewell to his Burmese counterpart at the airport.

India

Mission in Islamabad Denies Troop Buildup Reports

BK2805093093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] The Indian High Commission in Islamabad has expressed surprise at the spate of news items appearing the Pakistani media in the recent past suggesting a massive military buildup on the Indian side of the international border and the Line of Control in Kashmir. In a press release issued today, the High Commission denied that there has been any induction of additional troops in Jammu and Kashmir.

The AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent, Suresh Chopra, reports that the Pakistani military authorities have already been reassured twice about the correct situation on the hotline between directors general of military operation [DGMO] of the two countries. The Indian DGMO has told his counterpart that the limited troop movement between Jammu and Kashmir are of unit-level exercises being carried out during the summer months. These are well away from the Line of Control. The Pakistani DGMO has been reminded that such exercises are carried out as a routine by the troops of both the countries. The High Commission press release

adds that the government of India stands committed to the agreement signed between the two countries on 6 April 1991 whereby either country is to give advance notice of military exercises.

Commentary Views Developments in Pakistan

BK2805043393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 May 93

[S. Vishwam commentary]

[Text] Whatever happened in Islamabad yesterday, the second day after the verdict of the Supreme Court restoring the deposed prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, to power, has been on expected lines. In the first place, Mr. Sharif has won a resounding vote of confidence in the Pakistan National Assembly. Secondly, the reaction of the two major opposition parties, the Pakistan People's Party led by Ms. Benazir Bhutto and Jamaat-i-Islami, could not have been different. The Pakistan People's Party boycotted the National Assembly session and hence there was no question of the party voting. The Jamaat on the contrary attended the session, but abstained from voting. This gave Mr. Nawaz Sharif and his party a majority vote of 123 in a house with an effective strength of 202.

Mr. Sharif is, thus, firmly back in the saddle, for legitimacy of his government sanctioned first by the Supreme Court and then by the National Assembly. The boycott of Ms. Bhutto's party of the National Assembly and Jamaat's abstention from voting provide the first indicators of tenuous nature of the new political situation in Pakistan. Ms. Bhutto has said that she does not recognize the legality of the National Assembly and that only a new assembly borne out of fresh elections will be legitimate. Another factor which could exercise its influence could be President Mr. Ishaq Khan himself. It is true that he has himself declared faith in the judiciary and also that he would respect the Supreme Court judgment. This assertion of the president will have to be taken with a liberal dose of salt, since the record of the president does not warrant total and unreserved acceptance of his democratic credentials. The overwhelming public response in favor of the court verdict will naturally inhibit him from going on an adventurous course. Then, there is the most important factor—the Army. When President Ishaq Khan dismissed Mr. Sharif's government last month, the chief of the Army staff took the position that it was up to the court to decide on the constitutional validity of the presidential action. It would seem that the Army is sticking to that position and is not inclined to intervene. There is yet another factor, namely the reality of a considerable entrenched Opposition to the beneficiary of the court's verdict Mr. Nawaz Sharif. Political expediency may have brought all those politicians and members of the National Assembly, who distanced themselves from Mr. Nawaz Sharif, back to his fold.

While the assertion of the rule of law in Pakistan is a development that must be welcomed wholeheartedly, it must also be admitted that it has opened a Pandora's box.

U.S. Envoy Malott's Remarks 'Unwarranted'

BK2805130993 Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 May 93 p 4

[Editorial: "State Dept's Old Tricks"]

[Text] India has done well to let the Clinton Administration know that while it welcomes US "constructive approach" towards the region, it cannot allow any infringement of Indian sovereignty—infraction camouflaged as defence of human rights. Indians have responded to US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State John Malott's high-sounding homily in New Delhi, asking this country to improve its human rights record. As the first senior US official to visit New Delhi after President Bill Clinton entered the White House, Mr Malott's views are being widely regarded as reflecting the new administration's policy towards South Asia. That is why his statements have depressed the hope of a substantial improvement in Indo-US relations. In fact, Mr Malott's fulminations on the subject of human rights have undermined the US claim that America is even-handed between India and Pakistan. It is strange indeed if the US chooses to treat Pakistani help for terrorist activities in India as being no worse than the propaganda of human rights violations in India. It betrays the old American reflex that somehow Pakistan has to be exculpated of its guilt. Little wonder then that Mr Malott has not only been blind to the "ground realities" in Kashmir where our forces have been fighting a proxy war against the infiltrators sent by Pakistan but has also totally ignored India's institutional safeguards our democratic polity and independent judiciary provide for human and civic rights. Mr Malott clearly was making a case before he takes Pakistan off the hook—of being proclaimed what it really is, a state that sponsors terrorism. He even refuted India's allegations of Pakistani complicity in the Bombay blasts for want of evidence. Thus, apart from the confessions of those arrested that they had been trained in Pakistan, even the flight manifest of Pakistan International Airlines showing that the main perpetrators of the blast took off for Pakistan via the Gulf countries, failed to convince the American official of Pakistani involvement. Obviously, the US was finding it difficult to chastise Pakistan, their former client-state. That would perhaps explain its desire to balance its admonishing of Pakistan on a range of issues like terrorism and nuclear proliferation with a similar outburst against India. But while such a stance can enhance US influence in Islamabad, Mr Malott's unwarranted advice to India amounted to a brazen interference in India's internal affairs. On nuclear proliferation, while expressing alarm over India's indigenous missile programme, the US has turned the proverbial Nelson's eye to the Chinese missile transfer to Pakistan. Pakistan's

nuclear programme progressed with sensitive equipment, blue-prints, raw materials imported from those very countries which were among the original signatories of the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty]. There is duplicity in America's dealings with India.

Scheduled Congress-I Session Postponed

BK2805043893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] The two-day AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] convention, which was to begin tomorrow at Amethi in Uttar Pradesh, has been postponed. The AICC-I general secretary, Mr. Janardhan Pujari, told our correspondent that this was done because of the extensive damage caused by the unprecedented storm and heavy rain at the site of the session yesterday. The decision regarding the fresh dates is likely to be announced at the Congress Working Committee meeting in New Delhi today.

Congress-I Not To Apologize on Ayodhya Issue

BK2805130693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] The next AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] session and the national convention on Panchayati Raj [local body administration] will be held at Amethi in October. It will be preceded by a Panchati Raj abhiyan [campaign] in which conventions at district, regional, and state levels will be organized. These decisions were taken at a meeting of the Congress-I Working Committee [CWC] in New Delhi today. Briefing newsmen about the meeting held under the chairmanship of the party president, the Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said that Mr. Narasimha Rao will attend some of these conventions. The AICC-I session on the Panchayati Raj was scheduled to begin at Amethi tomorrow but had to be postponed due to storm. The Congress-I Working Committee also decided that there is no question of any apology on the Ayodhya issue. It said that the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the sangh parivar [allied groups], who were responsible for the demolition of the mosque, should apologize. CWC advised the members to raise the issue, if any, in the Congress Working Committee and not make statements creating confusion and weakening the party. The members of the CWC, PCC [Pradesh,state, Congress Committee] chiefs, and chief ministers or the leaders of the Congress legislature party attended the meeting except Mr. Gegong Apang, Mr. Dorendra Singh, and Mr. N.D. Tiwari.

Two 'Hardcore' Militants Killed in Kashmir

BK2805043693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, a hardcore militant Nazir Ahmed Mangrej was killed in an encounter with the security forces in a village of Baramula District yesterday. He was a self-styled military adviser of a militant outfit and was responsible for several kidnappings and killings in the valley. According to an official spokesman, 11 other militants belonging to three main outfits had gathered in the village for a meeting when security forces surrounded the village on getting specific information. They were all arrested. Some arms and ammunition were recovered. Another hardcore militant Mohammad Amir, alias Omar Hayat, was killed in an encounter with the BSF [Border Security Force] in village Ushipura in Badgam District yesterday.

Four Soldiers Arrested in Kashmir for Assault

BK2805065493 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, four jawans [soldiers] of the territorial Army battalion were arrested today on charges of assaulting a woman at Rainkoth near Srinagar on Monday night. An Army spokesman said in Srinagar today that investigations were carried out by a brigadier in the case soon after a complaint was received. He said follow-up legal proceedings are being launched against the arrested jawans to ensure exemplary punishment.

Iran

Ayatollah Khamene'i Sends Message to Pilgrims

LD2705170493 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 27 May 93

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the convening of the great hajj congress and the day of the disavowal of the infidels, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the cause of the Muslims, in a message to the pilgrims to the Holy House of God, described living in the mirror of the hajj as a continuous spiritual journey toward God. He graciously said:

The Abrahamic hajj is the same as the Mohammedan hajj, in which movement toward monotheism and unification is the essence and goal of all rites and rituals.

During the hajj the Muslims should move from diversity toward unity and should circumambulate the Ka'ba, which represents monotheism and which is a symbol of disavowal and disgust of polytheism and infidelity, fully conscious of its symbolic meaning. They should transcend the appearance and formal observance of the rituals and should become conscious of their essence and hidden meanings. They should derive benefits from the hajj for their own lives and for the well-being of the Islamic ummah. [passage omitted]

In another part of his message the guardian of the cause of Muslims described the unity and solidarity of Muslims as another important theme of hajj rituals and said: Ever since the start of European colonialism in Islamic countries, one of the definite policies of the colonialists has been the creation of discord among the Muslims. At times these incitements have taken the form of resorting to the weapon of religious sectarian dissension, and at

other times through the use of nationalist and ethnic conflict. Unfortunately, despite the calls of the well-wishers and leaders for unity, this weapon of the enemy is still delivering blows and wounds upon the body of Islamic ummah. Therefore, it is essential for Islamic nations to become aware of the vile intentions behind those policies and to see the hidden hand of the Great Satan and its agents and hirelings behind those events and to reveal the traitors.

Referring to the fact that today throughout the world a dastardly and conspiratorial battle is being waged by arrogant powers against Islam and Muslims, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: A glance at the present situation in the Islamic world reveals the reason for the intensification of the battle against Islam, which has now come out in the open. The reason for this is nothing but the reawakening of the Muslims. The truth is that during the past two decades the Muslims have started a genuine and profound movement in the East and West of the Islamic world and even in non-Islamic countries. This movement should be called the movement of Islamic resurgence.

Today, despite the expectations of the former colonialists and present arrogant powers, the young and educated generation, which has also become aware of the culture of the time, not only has not forsaken Islam, but on the contrary, with a fervent faith which has become deeper and more realistic by making use of advanced human culture; this generation is turning toward Islam and is finding its lost treasure in Islam.

The establishment of the Islamic Republic in Iran and its ever-increasing stability, durability, and strength is the high mark of this youthful but deep-rooted movement. This revolution has played the most important role in the spreading of the reawakening of Muslims.

In another part of his message, the guardian of the cause of the world Muslims described the method by which the arrogant powers confront Islamic awakening in Muslim countries such as Algeria, Sudan, Palestine, Lebanon, India, Egypt, and Tajikistan, as well as in areas such as southern Iraq and Kashmir, a method which takes different forms involving various types of ruthlessness, violence, and aggression against the lives and properties of Muslims. He said: Worst of all is the unprecedented tragedy of genocide of Muslims in Bosnia. It is now more than one year since the racist Serbs, who have recently been joined by the Croats, through reliance on arms and means belonging to the Serbian regime and also reliance on foreign assistance, have been committing the ugliest and the most inhuman kind of murder, oppression and ruthlessness against the Muslims, who are the real owners of Bosnia- Herzegovina. The West and America have not only refrained from giving them any help or from displaying any will to stop the crimes of the Serbs, but also, by using the power of the UN Security Council, have stopped the oppressed Muslims from getting their hands on weapons; and by dispatching UN forces they have completed the siege of Muslims.

Muslims should know that America and the major European powers are directly responsible for the great Bosnian tragedy. During this year they have merely delivered empty words and promises, while they have not stopped the murder of even one person among thousands of oppressed people who have been killed in that land. Instead they have even put obstacles in the way of these Muslims becoming able to defend themselves.

The guardian of the cause of world Muslims considered unity among Muslims, insistence on Islam and its values and principles, resistance against pressures, and finally making things difficult for the enemies, as the only key to salvation for Muslims, and as the only way to confront the hostility of the West and America against Islam. He said: With all its satanic plans, and despite deploying coercion and the political ploy of false propaganda, the arrogance has not been able and will never be able to stop the ever-growing momentum of Islamic awakening and the movement of inclination toward Islam. The far-reaching activities in the fields of politics and security, and most of all, propaganda by America and the other arrogant countries and their regional lackeys against Islamic movements in different countries, including their activities against the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has been unprecedented and very extensive in recent years. In this connection, the Zionist regime, like an appendage of America in the region, is fulfilling its roles with as much vileness and thuggery as one can expect. [passage omitted]

The eminent leader considered modern propaganda covering the whole world as one of the most efficient weapons of the arrogance, and said: Today, the number of audiovisual and printed media putting all their efforts behind hostility against Islam is very large and increasing. Hireling experts are merely engaged in producing and processing news and analytical material aimed at misguiding the minds of their audience in order to misrepresent the Islamic movement and the important Islamic figures. From the time of the victory of the Islamic revolution, the Islamic Republic has ceaselessly and in an ever-increasing manner has been facing such hostile propaganda. It must be said that this ploy has not helped the enemy's objectives and has not enjoyed a great deal of success in the face of the pure Islamic movement, which is inspired by nature and need. [passage omitted]

In another part of his message, the great leader of the Islamic revolution noted that the anger and hostility of America and any other arrogant power against the Islamic Republic of Iran is the result of the system's belief in the indisputable principles of Islam. He stated: The nonseparation of religion and politics, political independence, as well as not succumbing to bullying by superpowers, declaring the necessity for the breakdown of the usurper Zionist regime and for the establishment of a Palestinian state, spiritual and political support for Islamic movements, condemnation of pressure on Muslims in any part of the world, defense of the integrity of

Islam and the Koran, as well as the eminent prophet of Islam and other di ne messengers, confrontation against dissemination of insults to Islamic sanctities, endeavors aimed at consolidation of the power of Muslim nations within the framework of the great Islamic community, rejection and negation of the imposed Western culture, and also insistence on the rejuvenation of Islamic culture in Muslim countries, and finally, fighting against corruption and sexual promiscuity, are some of the issues which have caused the grudge and hostility of America and its lackeys against the Islamic Republic. [passage omitted]

Government Protests Saudi Ban on Mecca Ceremony

LD2705194093 Tehran IRNA in English 1910 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 27, IRNA—First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati today summoned the Saudi ambassador here shortly after Riyadh banned the "deliverance from pagans" rally of Iranian pilgrims in holy Mecca.

Besharati voiced Iran's "strong protest" to the Saudi Government over the ban on the ceremonies which came despite prior arrangements to hold them.

The Saudi envoy said he would inform his government of the Islamic Republic's protest.

Pilgrims' Supervisor Reacts

LD2705223093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 27 May 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi-Reyshahri, the representative of the Vali-e Faqih and supervisor of Iranian pilgrims to the House of God, spoke to our correspondent about the disavowal of infidels ceremonies being prevented. He said:

[Begin Mohammadi-Reyshahri recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. From outside the House of God I send greetings to my esteemed and resistant compatriots. As you know, this afternoon the residence of the eminent leader in Mecca, on the basis of his eminence's guidelines, was ready to stage the disavowal of infidels ceremonies. More than 100,000 Iranian pilgrims and thousands of non-Iranians were walking toward the residence of the leader to take part in the ceremonies. Unfortunately, the Saudi police, by dispatching masses of military forces—they had been deployed since yesterday, but today their numbers were greater—blocked all routes leading to the residence of the leader, and finally the Saudi Arabian police prevented this divine ceremony from taking place.

In my opinion, as I have conveyed to Saudi officials in my written and verbal messages, this measure is completely unjustifiable and irrational. First, there is an agreement between the two governments that we are allowed to stage such a ceremony every year. According to this agreement, we had expressed our readiness to take such action. This incident occurred despite the fact that they had agreed and accepted this issue. In addition, on the basis of the precedent set during the previous years, when these ceremonies were staged in a peaceful and orderly manner—so much so that on some occasions the Saudi officials paid tribute to the peace and order present in the gatherings—these gentlemen were aware that we were going to hold the ceremony, and that it was in no way acceptable to us that we would have a hajj without the disavowal ceremony.

In any case, the Saudi Arabian officials were not unfamiliar with the way we carry out our pilgrimage, and for this reason, they could not on the one hand give permission to some pilgrims—in view of what these pilgrims believe in relation to the issue of disavowal—and then on the other hand, through mass deployment of their military forces, set out to prevent the formation of such a gathering.

In my opinion, such a move is totally unjustifiable, and it has deeply wounds the feelings of the pilgrims to the House of God. I have received reports that after being prevented from staging the ceremonies, many pilgrims returned to their quarters with tears in their eyes. It was only due to my recommendation to have revolutionary patience, and also due to the obedience of the pilgrims to the great leader's residence, that we were able to control their feelings, so as to make sure that no incident occured. It is necessary here that I should say that all pilgrims are—thank God—healthy, and no incident has taken place, and there is no cause for worry.

We strongly object to this irresponsible act of the Saudi Arabian officials, and we will pursue the matter seriously. [end recording]

Supervisor's Message on Ban

NC2805061793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 28 May 93

[Message from Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Mohammad Mohammadi-Reyshahri, representative of the supreme leader and supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims, to Ayatollah Khamene'i on 27 May]

[Text] To the auspicious presence of the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may his shadow be lengthened: Peace be with you.

This afternoon, 27 May 1993, the residence of the eminent leader was ready to stage the disavowal of infidels ceremonies on the basis of Your Eminence's guidelines. As their religious duty and as an inseparable part of the Abrahamic and Muhammadan—peace be upon him and his scion—hajj, more than 100,000 Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims to the house of God had

zealously prepared themselves to participate in the ceremonies after long anticipation to hear the message of the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution to the pilgrims to the house of God and to cry out death to America and death to Israel in an expression of their aversion and the aversion of all committed Muslims to the leaders of polytheism and arrogance and their new manifestations, and their solidarity with oppressed nations, especially the oppressed Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Unfortunately, despite the agreement of 1370 [year beginning 21 March 1991], Saudi officials made extensive use of personnel carriers and war vehicles and deployed a large number of military forces to block all routes leading to the place where the ceremonies were to be held and prevented the presence of the ambassadors of pure Muhammadan Islam in the place where blasphemy, polytheism, and atheism were to be disavowed.

I, who witnessed from close the revolutionary enthusiasm of the dutiful and brave pilgrims for an active presence in the ceremonies, testify as your representative that these pilgrims did their best to attend the ceremony to carry out their divine duty and to express their faithful allegiance to the late imam, may his soul rest in peace, and to his worthy successor; it was only after my advice to display self-restraint and revolutionary patience that they left the streets for their residences and mosques.

In conclusion, I express regrets at the unjustifiable act by Saudi officials and express my readiness and the readiness of all Iranian pilgrims to carry out the orders of the esteemed leader.

[Signed] Mohammad Mohammadi-Reyshahri, representative of the esteemed leader and supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims

Jannati Sermon Assails Ban

LD2805105993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] At Friday prayers in Tehran today, Ayatollah Jannati criticized the Saudi Government for prohibiting the disavowal of infidels ceremonies in holy Mecca. He said that with this act the Saudi Government has pleased the enemies of Islam but annoyed enthusiastic Muslims.

On the presidential elections, Ayatollah Jannati said that the participation of the masses of the people in the elections is a divine duty. He stressed that the people should elect the most suitable person for the post.

The interim Friday prayer leader of Tehran also pointed to the anniversary of the death of Imam Khomeyni, the founder of the Islamic Republic, may he be admitted to paradise, and said that all the works of the imam including his divine-political will, must be kept alive. He declared that submission to the imam is submission to the Islamic culture and revolution as well as submission to the principles of Islam.

Expressing condolences on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Mohammad Baqer, peace be upon him, Ayatollah Jannati emphasized the importance of the hajj days of Arafeh and Qorban festivity.

More on Jannati Remarks

LD2805125193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1052 GMT 28 May 93

[Second Friday prayer sermon by Ayatollah 'Ali Jannati in Terhan on 28 May—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] On the issue of the disavowal of infidels ceremonies, it is a matter of the utmost regret that they [the Saudis] have prohibited the ceremonies. This is indeed an issue of regret. What were the Iranian pilgrims going to say there? Disavowal means that there is no God but God. It means negating all that is not God. Where is one to do this if not in the house of monotheism [Mecca]? Do you think the negation of the non-God and the idols was limited to the early days of Islam and wooden or stone idols? Has the matter been settled? Is there no longer any idol worship? Or does idol worship constantly divert man in various ways? Man changes the idols, giving them a different color each time to make them compatible with the ideas of the time and to entrap people. Should we not say that you should not fall into the trap of the idols? There is no god but God. O Muslims, if you want honor go toward God. Say that God has no partner. But they prohibit this. Who does this please? The enemies, of course. Our enemy and the enemy of Saudi Arabia too, the enemy of all Muslims. They openly want to fight Islam. They will be pleased. But the enthusiastic Muslims will be annoyed. Dear Lord, guide us all.

My last statement is on the elections. Elections are near. The first issue is participation in the elections. Here we should not bring in domestic or minor issues or differences in view. They must be filed away, and discussed in their own place. In elections or such matters it is a question of Islam, the system of the Islamic Republic, the nation, and the country against the foreigners and the enemies. The greater the concentration of power, the greater the strength of the system. The Islamic Government will be stronger. The enemy will withdraw. The world should know that here there is no difference between the nation and the government. If they have plans for the government it is for the people. If ever the government wants to stand against the enemy the people will support it. [chants of approval] This must be shown in practice. Political development must be shown in practice. We must participate in the elections. Everyone is free to vote for anyone who will fulfill his responsibilities. [passage omitted]

KUNA Commentary Said Work of Foreigners

LD2705201193 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 27 May 93

["Kuwait's Propaganda Apparatus Commits Another Blunder"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, May 27, IRNA—Simultaneously with a visit of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Kuwait, Kuwait's official news agency (KUNA) in a despatch called on Iran to show practical good-intention towards the Arab states grouped in the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [PGCC].

In its commentary, KUNA requested Iran to revise its position towards the three Iranian islands in the Persian gulf, claiming that the islands belonged to the United Arab Emirates. It also voiced support for presence of foreign forces in the region.

Quoting unnamed observers, the Kuwaiti news agency said that the PGCC member states believed that foreign forces had no role in the instability of the Persian Gulf.

KUNA also claimed that security of the region is threatened by approaches and political thinking of governments like those of Iran and Iraq which, it said, pursued expasionist policies instead of moving towards economic and social developments and mutual respect for national sovereignty.

The KUNA commentary is broadcast at a time when most media in the region have evaluated as positive the outcome of Velayati's tour of the region.

The tone of the commentary which indicates a different approach by KUNA to Velayati's visit than other news media of the region, has taken regional political observers by surprise, for the sheikhdom's propaganda machine and press have experienced the consequences of similar publicity methods in not a too far past.

Those in charge of Kuwait's propaganda machine and certain news media are unlikely to have forgotten the bitter memory of their sympathetic approach to the Iraqi regime in the past.

In the course of the Iraqi-imposed war, the news agency, newspapers and radio and television of Kuwait openly supported and took the side of the Baghdad regime. They even took a step farther by branding Iran as the initiator of the conflict and blaming it for aggressions made by Iraq against Kuwait with an aim of pitting it against Tehran.

The press community still remembers that the Kuwaiti news agency in a dispatch dated 22 October 1987 attributed an Iraqi missile attack on an island close to al-Ahmadi port to Iran.

The Kuwaiti mass media did never conceal their joy with any military moves taken by Iraq against Iran, nor did they miss any opportunity to elaborate on those moves with embellishment. They also kept on repeating their demand that regional and international circles through political and economic pressures force Iran to quit its defence against the aggression.

However, following the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait on February 2, 1990, the Kuwaiti mass madia joined political officials of their country in backing down from their previous position and adopted a softer tone vis-a-vis the Islamic Republic.

Such an about-turn in attitude continued as far as the liberation of Kuwait when even some leading Kuwaiti journalists expressed their regret over their past attitude towards Iran.

The Kuwaiti daily AL-SIYASAH in its issue dated 17 September 1991 quoted prominent media experts of Kuwait as confessing that the Kuwaiti mass media had overstepped the mark in supporting Iraq in its 8-year long war on Iran and regretted their past position.

Considering such a record, it is very unlikely for Kuwaiti news media to desire to make the same mistake and then have to apologize for it.

It would be advisable for Kuwaiti journalists and those running the mass media in that sheikhdom to know that Saddam's forces are still busy digging trenches and bunkers across their country's vulnerable borders and that if someday another Saddam attacks Kuwait then even Kuwaiti newsmen will not have a chance to flee.

Shocked by the KUNA commentary, a Tehran-based Arab journalist who closely follows Persian Gulf developments, said the Kuwaiti mass media have been serving the interests of foreigners in recent years.

He said the backing of the aggressor (Baghdad) in the Iraq-Iran war by the Kuwaiti news circles disclosed that they are supported and guided by the Baghdad regime.

In the view of the veteran journalist, had the Kuwaiti mass media not been at the service of Iraq and if they had published the truths both during and after the Iraqi war on Iran, the region would have attained peace and stability much earlier and the Kuwaiti people would not have incurred so many sufferings as a result of Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and presence of foreign troops in the region.

Elsewhere in its commentary, the Kuwaiti news agency has appealed to Iran to discontinue its opposition to the Damascus declaration.

The plea made by KUNA is a reference to the Islamic Republic's unshakable stance that "the security of the Persian Gulf should be maintained by regional countries themselves and without foreign intervention."

Political observers in the region who regard the Damascus declaration as being of no value, underline the point that even those who have inked the declaration not only are doubtful about its feasibility but also believe

this document like many other agreements signed hurriedly, would be buried in the archives of the countries concerned.

Political experts are in the belief that the stance taken by the Kuwaiti news agency on the three Iranian islands has been dictated to it by big powers seeking domination on the region.

Citing Iraq's historical territorial claim on Kuwait, the experts consider any change in the internationally-recognized borders in the region as being detrimental to the peace, stability and security of all countries of the region particularly such a small and weak state as Kuwait.

Obviously the Kuwaiti mass media in the course of the 8-year old defence and resistance of the Iranian people have realized the fact that Islamic Iran is not ready to give up even an inch of its territory and that it is quite capable of defending its soil solely by relying on Almighty God instead of foreign forces or arms.

The Kuwaiti news agency has also branded Iran as the cause of insecurity and instability of the region. This indicates that KUNA has apparently forgotten that it was Iran which supported Kuwait's sovereignty immediately after its occupation by Iraq, which helped it cap its oil wells set ablaze by Iraqi troops and which accepted Kuwait's expression of regret over its past support for Baghdad.

KUNA also seems to have forgotten the statements made by a Kuwaiti official in his interview with a group of Iranian reporters after his return to Kuwait city that Kuwait has been built by Iranians and that the Kuwaitis owe a debt of gratitude to Iranians.

By reviewing the commentary attributed to KUNA, the news circles in Kuwait will undoubtedly find the traces of foreigners. The Kuwaiti authorities too would better show that they are honest with their claim of advocating peace and stability in the region and that they consider having sound ties with strong and Islamic Iran as beneficial to their people and other peoples of the region.

Majles Speaker on 'Shaky' Iraqi Regime

LD2805110993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 May 93

[Excerpt] The Islamic Republic of Iran's insistence on revolutionary principles and values has forced global arrogance to subject Iran to new pressures every day, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri said last night, in an address to clerics who are being dispatched to various parts of the country.

In his address, which was arranged by the High Council of Seminary Policymaking at Qom Dar-ol-Shafa school, the Majles speaker said that international Zionism and the media under its yoke are deploying all their strength to put pressure on Iran. He said that a vast number of crimes is being committed in the world by the agents of Zionism, but the enemies are trying to grasp unfounded pretexts, such as Iran's supposed support for terrorism and violation of human rights, to isolate the Islamic Republic of Iran's system in the world and to distort its face.

Explaining the situation in Iran's neighboring countries, the Majles speaker said that the present standing of the Iraqi regime is extremely shaky. He added: The government of that country has never been so wretched and miserable as it is now, and so lacking in will power. [passage omitted]

Further on Majles Deputy Speaker's Remarks on Iraq

NC2805103993 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY in English 20 May 93 pp 1, 10

[TEHRAN TIMES City Desk report]

[Text] Tehran—A senior and one of the most respectable parliamentarians denounced the Iraqi regime for harboring state-sponsored terrorism inside the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Deputy Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Dr. Hasan Rohani disclosed that 'the Iraqi regime trained and equipped groups with necessary materials to embark on terrorist activities in Iran'.

He said, "Recently these Iraqi agents blasted oil pipelines in southern Iran, but all were arrested by the security officials."

Dr. Rohani, secretary of the National Security Council, said that the arrested terrorists were mostly from the Arab National Front and also from the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization or MKO who are popularly known in Iran as the 'hypocrites' because of the nature of their nefarious activities.

"During their interrogation, these terrorists confessed that the Iraqi regime had trained and equipped them with explosive materials so that they could explode the oil pipelines inside Iran," Dr. Rohani said.

"It will be interesting for the world to know that while the Iraqi regime was embarking on state sponsored terrorism, it was also sending messages to the Islamic Republic of Iran for normalization of bilateral relations," Dr. Rohani noted.

In fact we don't have any objection to normalization of our relations with the Iraqi regime, but we have certain terms which should be fulfilled by Baghdad before initiating any other frinedly action," Foreign Affairs Commission head of the Majles Dr. Rohani said.

Going into details he said, "The first step which we expect is that the Iraqi regime should stop sending terrorists into Iran both in south Iran and Iranian Kordestan.

The Iraqi regime, according to the reports, using the outlawed Arab People's Front and the Monafeqin, Kurdish Democratic Party, and Komelleh Marxist and Maoist Party of Kurdistan.

The Iraqi regime is giving training to these mercenaries and is sending them to Iran for terrorist activities, Dr. Rohani said.

"For goodwill," he said, "the Iraqi regime should take specific steps on finding solution to the problems of the prisoners of war." We know and we have proof tht 5,000 Iranian PoWs are in Iraq for which all necessary details were furnished to Baghdad by Tehran and it was determined that they all were alive and in Iraqi custody," Dr. Rohani said.

Unfortunately, the Iraqi stance on this vital issue is not cooperative and if their claims are supported by the authentic proofs, then it would have a favorable impact on the remaining 20,000 Iraqi PoWs who are in Iran after the 1980-88 war between the two countries which was initited by Baghdad.

"In the light of these facts the Iraqi move for normalization of the two countries' relations is contradictory," Dr Rohani underlined as he spoke on the issue.

Dr. Rohani, one of the closest allies of President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani, reiterated the Iranian policy that the security of the region is purely a task of the Persian Gulf littoral states.

He suggested that eight countries are littoral states of the Persian Gulf and they should assume the responsibility for the security and stability in the region and no foreign powers should be allowed to come over here for a job which "we are quite capable of doing ourselves".

He said that the current visit of Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati is in the direction of confidence building among 'our friendly neighbors.'

"Well, whenever, we think that it is necessary to have direct contact with the countries of the southern Persian Gulf state an official is dispatched for that purpose," he said.

"If you keep logic foremost in your mind you will come to know that eight littoral states should be responsible for the security in the region and they are Iran, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, the UAE, [United Arab Emirates], Bahrain, Kuwait and Iraq," Dr. Rohani said. Of course until the time the issues in Iraq are thrashed out the chair of the country should be kept vacant and the rest of the seven countries should assume their duties in this respect.

"The first factor which should be on the top of our agenda is to reduce tension in the region and should be followed by a collective and sincere effort to remove the dirt from the friendly, brotherly and neighborly relations among all of us," Dr. Rohani said.

The outsiders to the region come here not for the security of the region but for the oil which they need, he said, adding that "we have seen in case of Kuwait which had no accord with the Western allies, but they came to help the Shaykhdom."

He was referring to the 1990 Iraqi attack of Kuwait which finally resulted in a crushing defeat of the iraqi forces and freeing of Kuwait.

"I tell you that if Kuwait did not have oil the Western allies would not have come there even if that shaykhdom had signed a friendly accord for assistance on such an occasion," Dr. Rohani said.

"Here I want to make clear one fact once more and that is that Iran is in no way dangerous for any country in the region and we never even thought to export our revolution through arms," Dr Rohani said.

"Yes, we know the importance of Saudi Arabia in the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council and believe that if Iran and Saudi Arabia work together, we would be able to solve most of the regional problems," he said.

"We had one of the problems with the Saudi government which, thanks to God, was solved and now the Iranian pilgrims antipathy against the pagan rally during the Hajj period can proceed without any problem," he said.

"This was the problem which was used by the enemies as a tool to create a deeper gulf between Tehran and Riyadh," he said.

The Damascus Declaration which calls for a defense accord by six council members, Egypt and Syria, was scoffed at. This accord he said "is not practical and was meant for political propaganda." He said "if you see the geographical, technological and military factors you will come to know that this accord has no meaning."

"The council members have Western style weapons and other military facilities while Syria has entirely Eastern facilities and Egypt has both mixed," he said and questioned as to how you can cope with the needs of the region in these circumstances.

He said that Britain follows the United States in its policy so it is difficult to go along with London.

Dr. Rohani visited Germany as head of the parliamentary delegation which he said, "was very successful."

"We had frank and free discussions in Germany and made it clear to the Germans that we are ready to talk on each and every topic and remove any misunderstandings if they existed," he said.

Dr. Rohani is optimistic that talks between Iran and European countries will start for the smooth flow of collective and bilateral relations.

He said that the letter of President Rafsanjani to the European Community had a favorable impact.

Commenting on the future cabinet of Rafsanjani, Dr. Rohani said, "I believe that if Brother Rafsanjani wins the elections he will make certain changes in his cabinet as the present cabinet will face tough challenges from the Majles deputies."

On the achievements of the Iranian Foreign Ministry Dr. Rohani disagreed with some of its policies but hoped in future things would be set in their right place. He did not elaborate.

DPK Political Bureau Statement on Shelling in Iraq

NC2805084893 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 27 May 93

[Statement issued by the Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran, DPK, on 26 May]

[Text] O combatant people of Kordestan, dear compatriots, O international organizations and forums: The military aggression by the Islamic Republic of Iran against border areas in Iraqi Kurdistan is expanding day by day. During the past two days, the headquarters of the DPK's Political Bureau and surrounding villages were heavily shelled several times and very costly damage was inflicted on Kurdish villagers.

Starting this morning, the artillery attacks on border villages have further intensified, hitting the villages of (Sune), (Dubbeh), and (Shivaral) in Qal'at Dizah and the villages of (Qeslan), (Khewigurga), (Chavushga), (Horel), (Darband-e Beylula), (Darean), (Kheyr Ya'qub), and (Kamtaran) in the region of Darbandikhan. In these villages, as a result of two hours of intensive shelling, 12 people, including three women and a one-year-old child were wounded and very costly damage was also inflicted.

We hereby call on the Iranian masses and on the people of Iraqi Kurdistan to raise their voice of protest against the repeated aggressions by the Islamic Republic and against these adventurous actions. At the same time, we expect international governments and forums, especially the UN Security Council, to adopt a decisive and clear position regarding the clerical regime's aggressions and to end this regime's adventurous acts.

[Signed] The DPK Political Bureau

[Dated] 26 May 1993

Attacks Detailed

NC2805090793 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 27 May 93

[Statement issued by the Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Kordestan, DPK, on 26 May]

[Text] According to reports, in the early hours of 23 May, several warplanes of the Islamic Republic of Iran bombed two bases of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization of Iran [MKO] inside Iraqi territory. Reports state that fortunately this bombing did not result in any deaths and only resulted in some damage.

The DPK strongly condemns the bombing of the MKO bases and the violation of Iraq's airspace, which constitute a blatant violation of international pacts in general, and UN Security Council Resolution 598 on a cease-fire between Iran and Iraq in particular. In our opinion, this fresh aggression by the Islamic Republic is the natural outcome of the silence by international forums on Iran's former adventurous acts and, specifically, on the bombing of the DPK Political Bureau headquarters and the repeated shelling of border areas in Iraqi Kurdistan.

It is very likely that as long as such aggression meets with the indifference of the United Nations and other international forums, there is a serious threat of repetition. Therefore, once again we call on competent regional and world organizations to end their unjustified silence over Iran's aggressions and put an end to the Islamic Republic's breaches of law.

[Signed] The DPK Political Bureau

[Date] 26 May 1993

Armenian Charge Interviewed on Karabakh, Relations

NC2805130593 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 18 May 93 p 15

["Exclusive" interview with Vahan Baybordyan, Armenian charge d'affaires in Tehran, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [HAMSHAHRI] What conditions does Armenia put forth for peace with the Republic of Azerbaijan?

[Baybordyan] The Armenian Government's policy on this is clear. The current war can only be solved through talks and in order to reach this point, it is necessary that a cease-fire without any preconditions be declared and the war operations be ended.

Thus, the establishment of an unconditional and lasting cease-fire is the only guarantee of successful talks. Any step that will not ensure an immediate and lasting

cease-fire is unacceptable to the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh since it will encourage the policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan on solving the crisis by resorting to military means.

As to the peace talks, it should be said that the Government of Armenia believes that only through the participation of Karabakh officials can successful results be achieved.

[HAMSHAHRI] What are the latest reports you have on developments in the region?

[Baybordyan] The latest reports we have are on a peace plan that has been proposed by Russia, America, and Turkey. In Armenia's opinion this plan is not suitable and our foreign minister has stated the reasons why it cannot be accepted. In the Armenian Government's opinion, first of all, an immediate and unconditional cease-fire should be established and then peace talks be held within the framework of the Security Council and the CSCE with the participation of Karabakh in the talks as well. The reason for Karabakh's participation in the talks is that the current war is a war between Karabakh and the Republic of Azerbaijan; this reality was also recently confirmed by UN observers.

[HAMSHAHRI] How do you see Iran's role in the peace talks?

[Baybordyan] Armenia accepts all constructive proposals from all countries. My personal opinion is that Iran should participate in the solution of all regional problems because the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the preservation of regional stability and security.

[HAMSHAHRI] Many say that a long time has passed since the massacre of the Armenians by the Turks in 1915, that this file is considered to be closed, and that the then Turkish Government does not exist any more. Why does Armenia not forget this incident?

[Baybordyan] Every nation has a history and I should say that the consequences of this massacre have not yet been eliminated. But this does not mean that we will upset our relations with Turkey. Turkey is our neighbor and naturally we should have good relations with our neighbors. Armenia has tried very hard to improve its relations with Turkey and now it is their turn to take a step ahead.

[HAMSHAHRI] Some say that Armenia is the base of the West in the region and also that the CIS members have invested there. What is your opinion of these remarks? Do you see any contradiction in them?

[Baybordyan] Our relations with Russia are historical and the Republic of Armenia is the only republic in the Transcaucasus which is a CIS member. As for Armenia's relations with the West, I should stress that Armenia intends to have friendly relations and to establish contacts with all countries that wish to have such relations. Armenia is an independent country and takes Armenia's interests into consideration in all its decisions.

[HAMSHAHRI] It is said that apart from Armenia's forces, mercenary forces from the Russian Federation are also participating in the war against the Republic of Azerbaijan. What is your comment on this?

[Baybordyan] This is not true at all and those who make such remarks are trying to justify their defeats on the battlefronts. Russia has adopted a completely impartial stance on the Karabakh war.

[HAMSHAHRI] What is your view on the future relations between Armenia and Iran?

[Baybordyan] First of all, allow me to state that I firmly believe in the future of relations between Iran and Armenia. The two countries have 46 km of common borders and these are borders of hope for us. The basis of Armenia's political relations with Iran can be said to be the important principle in Armenia's foreign policy: the establishment of relations based on equal rights between neighbors. And these relations should be based on mutual security and respect for the territorial integrity and independence of the sides involved. Therefore, in view of this I can clearly say that Armenia attaches strategic importance to its relations with Iran. On this basis we have envisaged both short- and long-term aspects in which the interests of both sides are, of course, taken into consideration.

Since Iran wants to maintain the balance in the region, Iran's sincere cooperation with Armenia can be an element in the establishment of stability and peace in the Middle East.

Moreover, Armenia can cooperate with Iran in building a common house in the Middle East. In other words, Iran and Armenia have mutual interests in the region.

Thus, the outlook of the expansion of economic, commercial, cultural, and humanitarian cooperation can be see in Iranian- Armenian relations. Currently a number of agreements have been signed between the two sides and will be implemented. [passage omitted]

Turkish Industry Minister Holds Contacts in Tehran

TA2805091193 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Industry and Commerce Minister Tahir Kose is continuing his contacts in Tehran. He met separately with Iranian Heavy Industries Minister Mohammad Nezhad-Hoseynian and Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzahed. Increasing the volume of trade between Turkey and Iran was discussed during the meetings.

The talks between the Turkish and Iranian delegations focused on joint investments in the automobile industry and in third countries. The delegations decided to cooperate in these areas.

Cooperation Accord Signed With Indonesia

BK2805085193 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Indonesia and Iran have agreed to enhance cooperation in the fields of technology, electronics, telecommunications, the steel industry, transportation, and aviation. The cooperation agreement was signed in Tehran yesterday by B.J. Habibie, Indonesia's minister of state for research and technology and head of the Board for Technological Research and Application, and Iranian Defense Minister Akbar Torkan.

Apart from meeting Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani during a five-day visit to Iran, Minister B.J. Habibie held talks with Defense Minister Akbar Torkan and Mohammad Gharazi, post and telecommunications minister. They discussed the purchase of CN-250 aircraft and helicopters from the Nusantara Aircraft Industry [IPTN]. The IPTN-manufactured aircraft and helicopters will be used for the smooth flow of goods and services in Iran. Speaking to Minister Habibie, the Iranian president expressed the hope that President Suharto would visit Iran.

New Role in Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Group

LD2705181293 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has been chosen as a member of the ruling council of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development.

This selection was made at the 19th session of the Ruling Council of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development, which ended its four-day meeting today.

The Islamic Republic of Iran was selected a member of the Executive Committee of the organization for four years.

This is the first time that Iran has been selected a member of the ruling council of the organization.

The IRIB, which represents the Islamic Republic of Iran, is active in the organization.

Presidential Candidates Outline Programs on TV

Tavakholi Criticizes Government

LD2605211193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1700 GMT 26 May 93

[Addresss by Ahmad Tavakkoli, presidential candidate and former labor minister; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to my dear compatriots. I am grateful that you are accompanying me. Islamic Iran will achieve total independence and prosperity if the government becomes capable, lean, and low in its expenditure; if all the ministers become wise, become concerned about the condition of the oppressed, crush blasphemy, and if they believe in the comprehensive effectiveness of Islam; if the people are informed about what goes on in the country and if they participate in making and implementing decisions; if the Western cultural onslaught is taken seriously; if the offenses and lack of coordination by the officials are dealt with decisively; if there is the possibility for capable individuals to move up; if the officials are free from seeking privileges and indulging in luxury; and if the speed of the economic improvement of the country is regulated in keeping with the people's endurance.

Fifteen years after the victory of the Islamic revolution, Islam and the revolution are proud in the eyes of the wronged masses in Islamic countries and are imposing their strength upon the domineering world. Although Islamic Iran has suffered many grievous wounds from the enemies, it is standing on its feet with firmness and dignity. Iran has achieved this victory due to the sagacity and divine leadership of its deceased imam and his legitimate successor, and as the result of the steadfastness and sacrifice of you, beloved nation. God willing, Iran will enable all the nations of the world to become more aware of their own strength and will put an end to the domination of the superpowers over the wronged nations. [passage omitted]

Today we are in a period when we wish to elect the sixth president and to delegate the responsibility for executive affairs to the person you choose. The importance of the presence of you people in the elections in order to give strength to the government, and the role of the government in the fate of every one of you, beloved ones, is such that all of you should take part in the elections. [passage omitted]

I will try to present to you, dear nation, my views about the problems of the country. The time of the programs of the radio and television is not so extensive that one can speak in detail about these issues. I will try to enumerate the main principles which will transform the country, if they are implemented. The principles which I have enumerated are as follows. As always, I will try to be like a consultant for you the nation. If I am put in charge of affairs, I will act according to the principles which I will refer to; and naturally I believe that they can be implemented. [passage omitted]

The shortcomings which I will mention are not something which cannot be eliminated, because we have a noble, devoted, and aware nation which is following a perfect religion, which enjoys a divine leadership, lives in a country which enjoys innumerable God-given resources, and is proud in the eyes of the masses of the world. Such a nation does not lack anything for improvement and advancement. At the same time, the recounting of the weaknesses and shortcomings should not make us forget the services that have been rendered by the government.

It is not possible to elaborate and explain all of the seven points which I mention at this session. As there is, God willing, going to be another one of these programs, I will try to mention three or four points to you tonight and leave the rest for the next television session or the radio program during which I will address you, dear nation.

I believe it is better if I begin with issues which for their reform need nothing but determination and decisiveness and which will play a decisive role in satisfying the public. The first is that we should further involve the people in the country's affairs and management. They should hear the country's affairs and problems direct from the government itself and take part in decisionmaking. If people are not involved in decisionmaking and are not properly aware of what is going on in the country, then they naturally do not show adequate cooperation. [passage omitted]

Now that we live in a country which is facing many problems in achieving its goals, because a great deal of hostility is shown toward it and its ideals, it is natural that its people should be better informed and better involved. If people are involved in decisionmaking, then it is easier for them to put up with difficult outcomes, as naturally not all decisions meet their targets.

I will explain some cases in which people have been ignored and were not involved in the issues. No doubt management of the country is a difficult task in the current situation. But let us pay attention to an issue such as the distribution of rationed goods. If we examine the current situation, we realize that the Trade Ministry is gradually increasing the announcement time of the coupons. That is, it provides the people with less goods at official rates in each year. Perhaps there are rational and logical reasons behind this decision, but is it correct that a coupon is announced and the people, not being informed, keep running around without being able to find the goods? Is it not possible to discuss the causes with the people, openly tell them about problems, and make them understand in order to reduce their dissatisfaction and burden?

Suppose, on the other hand, that we look at our electricity and water bills only to see that, for this month, the figures on the bills are several times over the figures for previous months. Then, when we ask, nobody cares to give us any explanation. As a journalist, I have personally told reporters to investigate every corner of that ministry to inform the people of the reason for the increase in electricity rates, or to tell them who has sanctioned the increases and on what grounds. Yet nobody gave any answers; my repeated protests in the press were met with silence.

Another point concerns our relationship with international monetary and financial organizations. The IMF and the World Bank, of which our country is a member, used to have relations with us. I am not talking about whether these relations were good or bad. The point is that these relations were carried out under sensitive conditions—but no information was given to the people.

I personally protested against that trend in my newspaper pieces, and yet the response was silence. Direct contact with the minister in charge, meanwhile, yielded little result.

At that point we preferred to publish the news which we used to acquire in that connection. Those in charge reacted when we published the first item of news; they began to give news on Iran's relations with those two international organizations.

I have on occasion personally written on various kinds of reasonable and defensible relationships. Here the main thrust of my remark is not whether these affairs are good or bad. The main point is the manner of behavior with the people. If each one of the problems is discussed with the people, then the people and the experts among them can guide the government by their responses.

When on every occasion we provide the people with suitable information—relative to the issue at hand, of course—and pay attention to the responses, collecting the views of experts, we can subsequently make more considered decisions. In that case we will not go wrong in realizing the realities of the people's life.

The second principle, which in my view is very important, concerns the violation of law by some officials and a lack of coordination among them. Unfortunately, there is no decisive confrontation of such offenses and lack of coordination.

If in an orchestra one player plays out of tune with the conductor, he will have ruined the work of the entire group. Order and security are conditions for progress. Respect for law, in the first instance, is the duty of the exeuctive power. In the division of powers, it has been named the executive power; this means it must execute the law. If deviation from law and doing things according to one's whim replace the law and respect for law, then the people will not have sufficient social security and in such a case the people will try to come to terms with officials who, God forbid, break the law. Such a state of affairs has numerous consequences. Bribery and favoritism thrive under conditions of breaking the law and failing to punish offenders.

I can give you several examples. You remember that last year in the cities where they used to lay gas pipelines, subscription to gas connection was set at 26,000 tumans for small meters. When we followed up that issue and reflected the people's protests, we realized that over the space of several months the board of directors of the National Iranian Gas Company had adopted decisions to amend its budget. To balance its income and expenses under the five-year plan, the company had increased the rates of some of its services, and that was approved by the general assembly of shareholders.

Some time later, in a coordinated move, the National Iranian Oil Company, the National Iranian Gas Company, and the Plan and Budget Organization submitted proposals to the Economics Council to change the prices. These proposals included an item on levying a sum of 1,000 tumans under the heading of subscription right; that is, the right to connect the meter at home to the main in the street or to the lane. There were similar cases.

The Economics Council approved other points, after making amendments and lowering the proposed prices. For instance, rather than approving 15,000 tumans or 20,000 tumans for a connection, it approved 10,000 tumans. But it rejected the subscription right altogether.

First of all, for a time without telling the people why, they did not carry out the work for providing pipelines to the subscribers. Of course, as it has become quite usual, the people guessed that the prices were about to go up shortly. On 5 October 1992, the decision of the Economic Council was circulated among government departments, but it was not publicly announced; the people were not informed of it. Five days later, the board of directors of the National Gas Company, whose chairman is a member of the Economic Council, issued a circular announcing new prices, including a charge of 15,000 tuman for providing gas pipelines to subscribers. This was despite the fact that the Economic Council had not even approved an increase of 1,000 tuman. As a result, instead of 11,000 tuman which had been approved by the Economic Council the people were faced with a demand for 26,000 tuman. [as heard] This led to protests, to public inconvenience. Later, in a shamefaced decision, this circular was immediately canceled and it was said that those who had paid extra sums should reclaim them. Who was responsible for that lack of coordination? I asked that question in my newspaper but I received no reply. Why were no steps taken against those who were guilty?

There are numerous such cases. Perhaps one clear example is the headstrong decisions of municipalities, especially Tehran municipality. We are not questioning the fact that the municipality, in line with its responsibilities, should keep the city tidy, well kept, and healthy; it needs money for these steps and the funds should be provided by the citizens. The issue is about demanding illegal funds and the expenditure of those funds in an illegal manner. The issue is that they treat people without due consideration. When the people protest against the officials who attack their shops or their houses and ask why they are behaving in that manner and according to which law they are behaving in that manner, the official from the municipality tells them that the blade of his digger is sharper than the law.

This arrogant attitude, which is because offenders are not prosecuted, has gradually led the people to conclude that they have to come to terms with them in some way, because if they do not do so their work would be paralyzed. These actions will spread that kind of management in the country. This disease started from Tehran, but it has nearly spread to all parts of the country.

When we ask those who are subjected to such illegal acts and who come to us and to other newspapers if they are willing to write out their complaint and sign it, they refuse to even give us their name; they say that they have to deal with the municipality, with the Department of Agriculture, with the Commerce Ministry, and their work would be paralyzed later. If we do not follow up these offenses and if the offenders are not punished and if we do not eliminate this lack of coordination, on the one hand, we make government officials and managers feel insolent and arrogant and, on the other hand, we make our dear and noble people desperate. In the long term, both sides of this issue are dangerous for the country.

There are other sensitive and crucial cases of lack of coordination which can be mentioned, such as the issue of foreign currency commitments which the country was faced with. The income and expenditure of the executive power should be according to the law, either the planning law or the budget law.

On the basis of the first development program, we were supposed to purchase the total of $23.3 billion in imported goods during the year 1990-91, but in practice $34 billion worth of goods were ordered. This decision, which was inconsistent with the country's resources and Majles decisions, caused instability in our foreign exchange programs. That is, we had to silently either stop or reform our policies in the middle. During the three years 1991-93, according to official announcements, we had around $30 billion of foreign exchange commitments. That is, in fact we should have paid back that amount within a limited time. Because those purchases were not proportionate with the envisaged rational income, we failed to pay some of our bills on time and meet our commitments. That resulted in a situation which did not even happen during the war. That is, we became debtors who could not pay their bills. Even worse than that was when creditors contacted us to ask why we did not pay our debts and their telexes and their letters were not answered. Anyone who has a little experience or has done some management in commercial companies knows that one important task of a manager is to regulate income and expenditure. [passage omitted]

We had a 20-year-long foreign exchange credit. When we do not meet our commitments on time because we have purchased too much, and do not even contact our creditors on time, that is when we discredit the country. And now we are implementing the unavoidable and correct decision to unify the exchange rates at a time when commitments come one after the other, and in their payments we are so involved with decisions contradictory and inconsistent with our principled policies

that imports have practically come to a standstill. How much damage has been caused to the country's credit?

Of course, I do not see the global dimension of the problem as being so great that a rich and politically powerful country could not cope with it. But why should even so much damage be inflicted? Why are those who caused that situation not identified? Why are they not reprimanded? Is that how people and the country should pay for bad management?

The next point is the issue of seeking privileges and indulging in luxury. Thanks to God, we have the most popular government in the world. I am not exaggerating when I say this. This is my heartfelt feeling. [passage omitted]

If we rightly say that we should endure the difficulties of the period of reconstruction and of a dependent economy, then the highest officials of the country should be the first to endure these difficulties. However, if people see that some of the officials, whether government or nongovernment officials, are not observing the popular and Islamic manners in their way of life, in their comings and goings, in their methods of making use of public funds, then their trust will be diminished.

Unfortunately, we see a great deal of wastage, profligacy and elitism in both the private and official behavior of some of the officials. The imam of the ummah [Khomeyni]—may he be admitted to God's paradise—and the esteemed leader have repeatedly stressed this point. Unfortunately, this has been little practiced.

When we see that commercial companies are formed on the basis of friendship or family ties with some political officials; for instance, when a certain state organization which is run on public funds buys millions of tumans worth of imported goods from a certain company in order to distribute it among its members, but those goods rot in warehouses; when we see that a deputy minister makes use of an exclusive Falcon jet and keeps the aircraft in his service for a few days in order to inspect a number of projects in a few cities which have quite a few public airline services; when we see that a minister makes use of the helicopter of his ministry for his own private use; when we see that there are inappropriate foreign trips, both in view of the large number of the members of the delegation, the size of the delegation, and the inappropriateness of the trip, so many members of the trip and their way of behavior, it is natural that the people will feel uneasy.

Of course, I should thank God that we are not in a situation when all points are negative. The Fourth Majles issued a resolution to prevent some inappropriate trips, and this pleased the people and the esteemed leader; and at the moment they are busy investigating some of the visits by members of the government organizations, which I hope will bear fruit. [passage omitted]

I am happy and I thank God that I am serving as a soldier in a system where the pride-instilling record of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, his greatness and magnanimity and his strength in his presidency, will not prevent explicit criticism by someone like me. Whether in these elections you choose me or someone else to be in charge of the executive branch, that will in no way diminish the glory of his station or my desire to be a soldier for you, the dear nation.

God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Jasbi Views Cultural Issues

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[Address by presidential candidate 'Abdollah Jasbi; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] I am 'Abdollah Jasbi, born in Tehran, 48 years old, and married with five children. I received my engineering degree from the technical college in 1966 and continued with my postgraduate studies in industrial management and my doctoral studies in production and technology management abroad. I now have 26 years of university background.

My political struggles started in 1962 with participation in demonstrations against the regime and were followed by the creation of political-military cells. This continued until the victory of the Islamic revolution.

Following the victory of the Islamic revolution I had a number of responsibilities as adviser to the interior minister, deputy prime minister for planning, deputy prime minister for manpower reconstruction, secretary general of the organization for administrative and employment affairs, member of the Cultural Council—on the order of the esteemed imam—and 11 years as the head of the free Islamic Azad University.

During the activities of the Islamic Republican Party I was a member of the Central Council, deputy secretary general for planning, acting secretary general in the Executive Committee, and the head of the headquarters for organizing the party congress.

In the Islamic Society of Universities I have been a member of the society, the secretary general of the society, and member of the editorial board.

Since the victory of the Islamic revolution I have written a number of pieces in Persian and English. My books are in the fields of economics and management, as well as in the fields of politics and culture. Some of these books have been recognized as university textbooks. A large number of my articles have been published in Persian and English in scientific and research magazines, at home and abroad. I have now introduced myself.

Before I embark on the main topic I should mention a few points about the elections. The question may be posed: When a character such as Mr. Hashemi- Rafsanjani is present, why have I entered the election contest, and how serious am I in this contest, and what kind of

campaign do I intend to carry out? I must point out that my participation in the election campaign as a presidential candidate does not in any way affect my sincere feelings toward Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and God willing this participation will not decrease his kindness and friendship toward me.

My contest in these elections is serious. I have entered these elections because I feel this to be my duty and obligation, hoping that the nation of Iran can have a greater choice. And I have no intention of withdrawing my candidacy, and the votes cast by the Iranian nation will decide the outcome of the elections. The one who gains the greatest number of votes will certainly become president. I therefore invite all the Iranian nation to take the elections very seriously—as the eminent leader of the revolution has also said—and by participating in the elections they should fulfill their national and religious obligation. [passage omitted]

After this introduction, let me embark on the main topic. I will be dividing my topics into two parts. We will have two television programs, in the second of which I will talk to you, the esteemed nation, about political and economic issues. I will devote the present program to cultural issues.

As the time is short I will be discussing cultural issues under four main headings: higher education, general education, research, and the issues facing youth. [passage omitted]

Today there is a lot of debate about satellites. Here we must not take a passive position as we did with video. Before the satellites come, and before our enemies bring their pictures into our homes and rooms and fill all the empty space as well as the minds of our youth, we must take the upper hand through the creation of video clubs, renting satellites, computer disks, cable television and provision of better varied programs on the existing television. Before they come we must fill this empty vacuum and the minds of our youth with good films and pictures, and we must not give the enemy's satellites the opportunity for a cultural onslaught.

God willing, in a second program I will discuss economic and political issues. In a radio address I will give later I will further discuss economic and cultural issues. [passage omitted]

Khomeyni Urges Election of Muslim Scholar

LD2705112793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 May 93

[Excerpts] Islamic societies and associations in various productive, administrative, service, and educational centers are the main guides and implementors of the values of the revolution and the thoughts of his eminence the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise. Today, when world arrogance with all the political, economic, and cultural means at its disposal, has entered the field of battle against the revolution, we should expand the Islamic societies and associations more than ever before.

Making these remarks at a meeting today with the cultural officials of the Ministry of Education and Training, the Islamic societies of guilds and bazaar merchants, hospitals, universities, schools, and Islamic revolution foundations and organizations of Tehran, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni stressed the need to strengthen spiritual and revolutionary values among the young generation of the country in order to safeguard the revolution against all the threats to it. [passage omitted]

In another part of his speech Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni described the extensive participation of the Iranian people in the presidential elections as a sign of support for the leadership, the three branches of the system of the Islamic Republic, and revolutionary values. He added: A revolution which is the legacy of the blood of hundreds of thousands of martyrs should demonstrate its greatness and strength through the multimillion participation in the presidential elections. Also, we should vote for someone who is aware of the issues of the day, who is an Islamic scholar, who is a qualified to issue independent judgments on religious issues [mujtahid], who is brave, wise, and a capable manager; someone who can ensure the interests and the requirements of the system and the revolution without too much publicity.

Mohtashemi Discusses Political, Media Activities

Part I

NC2705122093 Tehran SALAM in Persian 16 May 93 p 4

[First of a two-part interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi by an unidentified SALAM correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [SALAM] [passage omitted] Please tell us, Mr. Mohtashemi, what you are currently doing and what responsibilities you have? Generally speaking, how do you feel about the fact that you and your friends have relatively withdrawn from the political scene? You know that the people are very willing to know the reason for this. Did you feel defeated after the elections?

[Mohtashemi] In the name of God, the almighty and merciful. I am now currently involved in scientific and research studies and also in teaching. I lecture one class at the seminary and I attend a couple of jurisprudential discussions with friends. The rest of the time I study and also write political articles and memories of the revolution. Briefly, this is what I do on a daily basis.

In answer to your second question as to our withdrawal from the political scene, of course this may be what some friends and possibly some factions think. But we have not withdrawn in any way. First of all, some of our friends are active in various executive fields. And those

brothers who do not have specific jobs have not withdrawn from the scene. It was not their choice to be left out of political and executive affairs. There is a difference between a group or an individual choosing not to be present in the political, executive, social, and cultural fields, and not granting an active group the opportunity to be present in these fields against its will. This is the meaning behind the silence and the lack of activity of the Tehran Militant Clerics Association. I would like to clearly state that we have not withdrawn in any way. It is the elements that I referred to in general that led to some people being excluded from affairs.

As to how I feel or should feel about this, naturally each committee person who is devoted to God, Islam, the revolution, the imam, and the people feels sorry for discerning something and not being able to do anything about it. This is how I feel. I am extremely worried about the situation of the revolution, of the system, of the people, and of the country, and I ask God to make possible the means for all those enamored with the revolution and with the system to be able to work toward the progress and development of the revolution and its principles and values, the consolidation and stabilization of the system, and the progress of the country and society.

As to your question on whether I felt defeated, I should say that it depends on how you interpret the issue. When a process, an individual, or a group does not succeed in Majles elections or in political and nonpolitical movements, this cannot be interpreted as a defeat. Even though during these elections, the imam's line and the revolutionary and hezbollah forces did not gain a majority of votes, nevertheless a number of good forces in various cities were elected and entered the fourth term of the Majles. The majority that we had in the third term was lost, but this does not mean that we were defeated. I interpret this to mean that we did not gain the success that we expected. But this may have been God's will for our brothers, for the processes that toiled in the country for 10-12 years, and for those who were the so-called helmsmen in the executive, political, and legislative arenas in Iran after the revolution and whose heavy schedule and activities did not grant them time for self-reflection and to review their past activities, to be able to sit down now and look back to see how they should work in the future. Possibly this is a very important achievement. If the group that favors the line of the imam had won in the Majles elections and had been involved in affairs for four more years, it would definitely not be able to review its activities. Therefore, I think that from this aspect it was to the benefit of the revolutionary process that this happened.

Moreover, in view of the supremacy of the rightists in the country's executive affairs, had the revolutionary and hezbollah forces following the imam's line won the majority in the Majles elections, they would have had problems facing them, because the policies and programs that the cabinet of our brother Hashemi-Rafsanjani adopted in the past on economic problems and foreign policy would mean that naturally the fourth term would not have been able to act in coordination with him. We believe that the government has general and particular weak points as far as its policies and programs are concerned. Also there are numerous weak points from an administrative point of view. In order to cover up weak points in the past, naturally they aimed the sharp point of the arrow at the revolutionary faction in the Majles and they constantly propagandized that this faction did not allow them to do anything, that this faction talked, wrote articles, and said things that spread disenchantment among the people and that all this prevented us from cooperating with foreigners or deprived us of the people's investments. They never admitted their weakness in management or that their problems and policies were problematic. But they no longer have the pretext that the Majles is not in coordination with them and that the gentlemen from the various factions are grumbling and disenchanting the people. It has now been specified where the weakness is and the people can, by studying matters, see where the problems and weaknesses lie.

Naturally today—against our will and contrary to our own wish to be present on the scene—we do not shoulder the heavy responsibility that we had in the past and this responsibility has been removed from us. But we are happy that at least the people can assess both the past and the present and can avoid being misled by propaganda disseminated by the domestic and foreign mass media that says that shortages and problems stem from the presence, existence, and activities of the revolutionary or "our enemies and opponents who are the extremist and radical faction."

We do not consider ourselves to be extremists. Contrary to the propaganda of enemies—foreign and domestic—we consider ourselves to be Islamic realists and not Western realists. Islamic realism is the trend that moves and thinks on the basis of the values of Islam and the revolution. Naturally the world opposes this reality and this type of realism, and its efforts have been to keep this process—the process of pure Islam and of Islamic realism—down and defeat it. Up to a certain extent they have been able to do this through their elements and minions in Iran. But this success will not be to their benefit in the long run and will lead to the alerting and awakening of the forces of the revolution and of the line of the imam inside the country. In view of this, I do not feel defeated in the elections.

[SALAM] In view of the relative free time that you have found, do you not feel a stronger need to begin publishing BAYAN magazine again? Basically speaking, why is BAYAN no longer published?

[Mohtashemi] The story of BAYAN magazine, the beginning and continuation of its activities and its closure—either temporarily or permanently—is an instructive lesson, the clarification of which may probably be necessary as far as the process of revolutionary thinking is concerned. During the life of his eminence the imam and in view of the executive activities in which

I was personally involved, naturally there was no time for the clarification of revolutionary thought and values and cultural-political policies and methods. After the demise of his eminence the imam and with the vacuum that was felt with his loss—and when I was unwillingly deprived of my executive duties—I found some free time. Also, there was no newspaper or magazine in the country that related revolutionary thoughts and clarified the line of the imam in the way that we thought there should be. We did not feel the presence of an independent medium to reflect political issues within the framework of revolutionary thought and the ideas of the imam, and we felt that there was no one who dared to express views and present correct news and analysis on the basis of the revolution. Therefore, we consulted some of our friends and decided to publish a magazine which the country was lacking. We took the initial steps, and finally a permit for BAYAN was issued and we officially began our activities. At first BAYAN was widely welcomed by various circles. This magazine was welcomed by university students, universities, the Qom Theological Seminary, among the various strata, in various cities, and in extremely remote areas where the country's official newspapers were not available. The revolutionary zeal and enthusiasm that the youth and the people showed in those areas made our magazine circulate there. The rightist faction felt a very strong danger, and a member of this faction once told me that BAYAN magazine is extremely dangerous since it affects the minds of the children, and he had heard that in some areas BAYAN was used as a textbook in classrooms. I asked this person: What threat is there against you? He said: This magazine turns the minds of the children upside-down. And this is dangerous!!

At any rate, BAYAN was welcomed for a short period, and I suddenly realized that the forces that were against the magazine started to emerge and we started facing many problems. Gradually these problems increased. I do not want to dwell on this issue now. But I would like to only say that we are happy that with beginning publication of BAYAN we were able to break the dam that existed and to make our good friends think that what we did was good and necessary both for the country and for the young generation, and was needed in order to preserve the revolution. Our friends in SALAM started their newspaper. JAHAN-E ESLAM and some other magazines appeared and gradually the vacuum was filled to a certain extent. [passage omitted]

We became the target of extensive obstruction, and if we want to explain the reasons BAYAN was closed down, we should examine several reasons. One of the reasons was that the government institutions did not cooperate in any way but instead obstructed the magazine. You know that a publication needs many people and can progress through cooperation. BAYAN had five or six departments—economic, political, social, cultural, and so on—which were staffed with good hezbollah brothers with analytical minds. These brothers were employed in various institutions or were in the [Islamic Revolution Guards] Corps, in ministries, and in various government organizations. But they also cooperated with our magazine because of their concordance of views with us. However, we suddenly realized that these dear brothers who were employed in the executive body were becoming targets of unfair treatment. [passage omitted]

I think that all these were unhealthy measures. If the government did not want a magazine or a newspaper to be published—and I do not know up to what extent it can bring itself to prevent such activities when publications are established on the basis of the press law, and no power can and should prevent it—and if the government wants to confront such publications, then it should be brave enough to say so and not resort to a series of activities to try to hide its intentions while it closes down the publication. [passage omitted]

[SALAM] What is your opinion on the press atmosphere in the country? Is it progressing positively? Also, what is your opinion on the cultural and moral atmosphere?

[Mohtashemi] I think that the life of a society depends on an independent and healthy press and on healthy cultural- political publications. [passage omitted]

The atmosphere of our mass media and press today is not favorable and healthy. Of course SALAM, JAHAN-E ESLAM, and some magazines and newspapers are exempt from this rule. Figures show that we have more than 300 publications in the country. But what percentage of these 300 publications do you consider to be independent? What percentage base their analysis on ideology and values? The absolute majority of these publications only eulogize. [passage omitted]

One of our problems now is that many of our people are turning to the foreign mass media saying that: If we want to hear news about our country we should hear it from others since in our country the mass media, the radio, television, and newspapers either do not reflect or are not allowed to reflect our domestic news as they should. We can see an example of this in SALAM which sometimes publishes a report for the people and then becomes a target of attacks and criticism by the leaders of some of the institutions. Well this is not a favorable and healthy atmosphere.

[SALAM] Do you think that this poisonous atmosphere has been imposed by some power centers, or do the newspapers censor news themselves, since the first case applies to SALAM?

[Mohtashemi] Both cases may apply. In other words, as I said, there are some publications that are affiliated with a trend or an organization. And if a newspaper is affiliated with a government organization, the proprietor of the said newspaper or magazine can only do what the said organization dictates that it do. [passage omitted]

[SALAM] Part of the rightist faction is liberal in the field of economy and policy and radical in the cultural field. Also, it is said that the opposite applies to the leftist

faction. However, we saw that in BAYAN you were radical in all three fields. Was this your personal view and a manifestation of a difference of opinion in the leftist faction, or is this the general view in the [Tehran Militant Clerics] Association?

[Mohtashemi] Of course the Association was not and is not a party organization in the way that you may think with a leadership cadre and a specific platform on political, economic, and cultural issues which it portrays as a strategy circulated among its members, all of whom then follow what the leadership cadre tells them to follow. There are only some minor differences on some cultural issues. As for the political and economic fields it is not as though all the members of the Association agree 100 percent on one specific point. Views on cultural issues also may be a little different. But the special characteristics of this group is that its members have many views in common in the political, economic, and cultural fields. [passage omitted]

Part II

NC2705142593 Tehran SALAM in Persian 17 May 93 pp 4, 14

[Second and final part of interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi by an unidentified SALAM correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [SALAM] In your opinion, what will the atmosphere the presidential elections be and, generally speaking, how will your faction act in these elections? Will it propose a candidate?

[Mohtashemi] The Tehran Militant Clerics Association will not propose a candidate for the presidential elections. It does not have a specific candidate. As to how the Association will act in the presidential elections, after the fourth Majles term elections the political activities of the Assembly have been stopped because under the conditions that were created we either had to act as others wanted us to act or—if we acted as we wanted to—conflicts would have arisen in society because of the shortsightedness and intolerance of the other side. We did not consider this to be in the interests of the country and the revolution. In relation to the presidential elections, which is a purely political process, the Assembly has not had any specific activities based on a decision that we made last year [ending 20 March 1993].

[SALAM] Do you call on the people to participate in the elections?

[Mohtashemi] Since we are not involved in political activities in the true sense of the word, each person acts according to his own responsibilities. The Assembly will not interfere, either negatively or positively, in the presidential elections since it opposes the initial decision.

[SALAM] Apart from this halt in your political activities, in view of the imam's statement both in his will and in his other messages calling on the people to always be present on the scene, will you not call on the people to be active in the elections too??

[Mohtashemi] We act on the basis of our personal duty. Our Assembly does not have any political activities.

[SALAM] You stated that if two ideas are not put forth then there is nothing to choose between. Well, I know that the other newspapers that want to answer you will say that by not presenting a candidate you are the ones who are falling short. No one can force you to propose a candidate, but if you want two ways of thought to be presented for the people to choose from, then you should propose a candidate.

[Mohtashemi] Political activities can exist only when there are equal opportunities. Since the elections for the fourth Majles term showed that the country opted and is opting to eliminate any process it faces and does not grant them the least bit of opportunity to carry out propaganda and political activities, then in this unequal and poisonous atmosphere no one can expect to have healthy competition.

[SALAM] Have the economic rectification policies brought social justice for the people? If you think that they have not, then please elaborate. Basically speaking, has the first five-year plan been successful?

[Mohtashemi] We can discuss the economic issue from various aspects. One is whether the five-year plan was correct, and if it was then whether it has been implemented in a good way, and whether it has been able to bring about social progress. Each one of these are topics that can be discussed independently. As for the first five-year plan, which was approved and is included in the agenda of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government, this is not the plan for which the bill was compiled during Engineer Musavi's premiership and during the time when the imam was living. The first plan, which was discussed by the former government and on which a bill was compiled, was a plan that envisioned a foreign currency budget of about $80 billion in a period of five years. It envisioned that we would not have a heavy debt to repay after five years. But when Hashemi-Rafsanjani was elected president, this plan was restudied by the government and was completely altered. In other words, the foreign currency budget was increased to $120 billion and from the very start it envisioned a large foreign debt amounting to several billion dollars. [passage omitted]

Also, when you separate culture from the revolution and from the genuine Islamic revolution movements, you will also be separating policy. Unfortunately the first five-year plan had these extremely dangerous consequences. We hope that the second five-year plan will make up for this. Unfortunately what we are seeing now does not show this. The discussions we hear today are about the continuation of the first plan but at a more accelerated speed toward pro-liberalist capitalism and toward a free market which will have extremely ugly political and cultural-security consequences and we will

suffer great harm in these areas. We will not only suffer great harm in the cultural-political fields, but also in our economy. Our society, and basically any revolutionary and Islamic society, demands its own Islamic economy. [passage omitted]

Economic rectification has its own specific formula which has been compiled in the West. These gentlemen in Iran interpret this rectification on the basis of the West's interpretation. But the impact of this policy will not only not bring about economic justice, but will increase economic oppression in the country.

The gentlemen who support economic rectification and are exercising the economic policy say that goods should find their actual price in the market, and that when they do, then all those who have the purchasing power will buy these goods and those who do not will not and will consume as much as their budgets allow. The also say that we should not promote consumerism. This is what economic rectification means in the view of these gentlemen. But this is not social justice. Social justice takes form when a country's resources are equally distributed and not when someone who has the money can buy more and someone who does not cannot. This may be economic rectification but it is not economic justice.

[SALAM] In view of your remarks on the influence of Western economy in our country, what is the role of the supreme leader in the country?

[Mohtashemi] Of course the role of the leader is in the compilation of the country's macroeconomy. The leader does not interfere in the details of policy. It is the responsibility of the executive and planning organs of the country to work on the basis of interests and general policies. The leader propounds the topic of social justice. But the executive system may come and say that the policy that we now have and the plan that we now have are aimed at fulfilling the aspirations of the revolution and at establishing social justice. In other words, they may confuse public opinion in order to avoid revealing realities for some time. If the leader interferes in every minor detail, then the executive system may deprive him of his responsibilities. We should not do something for responsibilities to be blurred. It should be determined whether the executive system is capable of implementing the objectives of the revolution and of the Constitution. If it is, then so much the better. But if it is not, then this should be clarified and the people will be able to see and understand their responsibilities when casting their votes.

[SALAM] If we assume that political rectification strengthens the economy, is it not worth it for the people to face economic self-discipline for a while or for the system to impose this discipline on the people for some time? The opposite of this question is also important; that is, is tending to the people's current needs worth weakening our economy in the long run?

[Mohtashemi] As I have stated, when economy becomes a principle for us, then naturally everything should be sacrificed for economy. [passage omitted]

When it was envisioned in the first five-year plan and when the executive officials of the country believe in the theory that if we have a poor country then we can neither safeguard our revolution nor our foreign policy and that our country should be rich and economically powerful, this is the same thing as "twisting words of truth to meet evil intentions." Yes, if a country is developed and has a strong economy, then it can be a politically independent and powerful country on the international scene. But if economy becomes the main issue and everything is sacrificed and annihilated for economy, then a country cannot be independent, free, and powerful. [passage omitted]

[SALAM] If your faction was in power would the people's economic situation be much different now? Why? Basically speaking, many of the people consider the two factions to be the same and think that what is happening is only a political game. If this is not true, then how radical are your differences? Are you each other's enemies?

[Mohtashemi] No! We are not anyone's enemy. We are only enemies with the enemies of God and of the people of God. We do not consider the system that exists today to be either the enemy of God or the enemy of the people of God. We consider these people to be people who have chosen the direction they are moving in on the basis of a series of special formulae stemming from incorrect reports that have been fed to them or on the basis of their own wrong deductions—a direction that will ultimately lead to the annihilation of the economic system and of principles and values. As to whether any change would have been made in the economy if the supporters of the imam's line and of the revolution were in power, well ' can say that the change would have been 100 percent. And this change would be very obvious. The economic system of the country during the first decade of the revolution and during the eight years of the war showed that management, economic policymaking, and planning were close to the imam's way of thought. Naturally the people's living conditions, public welfare, meeting the needs of the oppressed and of the deprived, and the way the economic machinery operated were much better than now, despite the pressures and difficulties and the economic siege we faced then. All our enemies admit that the economic policies and programs during the war and the first decade of the revolution were more calculated than they are now. This is something that everyone admits and something which all the people have felt with all their might. During the past four years with the changes that have taken place in economic policies and plans as a result of the rule by the rightist faction and of economic liberalism, everything has changed and the balance of economy has tipped in the favor of the rich. Every day the people are placed in front of more deadly economic bottlenecks. In other words, today the people's purchasing power in comparison to four years ago is

about 20 times less. That is, the people's purchasing power has dropped 2000 percent while wages have increased less than 100 percent! [all figures as published]

To whose benefit is this? To the benefit of the public? The dollar was 70 rials. Wages and expenditures were calculated on this basis. Now the official rate of the dollar is 165 rials. In other words, there has been more than 2200 percent devaluation in the national currency. Purchasing power has dropped and wages have increased only between 20 to 25 percent annually during these four years. Therefore, on this basis the economic movement is wrong and not to the benefit of the people and only upsets the society's economic, political, and cultural equations.

Government Warned Against Capitalist Economy

NC2805123393 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
12 May 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by 'Abbas Darvish-Tavangar: "Western Patterns: The Major Problem in Iran's Economy"]

[Excerpts] Despite fourth-term Majles deputies' efforts to adopt measures to prevent the intense pressure of inflation stemming from the policy of a single rate for foreign exchange and from the policies to right the economy in the new budget, many items and services cost more since the current Iranian year began on 21 March. Look at the increase in the price of milk, fertilizers and pesticides, tea, chicken and eggs, iron, potatoes, onions, paper, and foreign exchange. The increases, especially those in the cost of milk and pesticides, have caused great concern among the people and farmers.

These concerns meant the government could take the necessary measures and cut some prices. This governmental review reveals some points that the country's economic officials might consider.

A serious question emerged along with the introduction of the policy of righting the economy and preparing to introduce a single rate of foreign exchange: What measures are planned to mitigate the pressure on the deprived? In reply, ministers and economic officials discussed policies to protect the deprived and mentioned subsidies. Government and Majles efforts led to the realization that subsidies are more sensible and should not be halted abruptly. So the budget allocated large amounts of money to subsidies. [passage omitted]

True, many of the new economic policies such as the people's participation in affairs, privatization, growth in production and investment, and so on will eventually benefit the deprived. But the short-term impact of these policies is increasing pressure. What plans are there to mitigate the pressure? Some time ago, the esteemed leader of the revolution stated: "The economic sectors should try to concentrate on fighting high prices and the Ministries of Commerce, Economy, Agriculture, and Industries and the Central Bank should offer long- and short-term programs for this." Although decisions were made in this field and steps were taken, they were not enough. [passage omitted]

Based on factors presented by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the need for an abrupt halt to subsidies was stressed. But since these bodies are tools in the hands of world hegemony, especially the United States, the intentions behind such advice and the objectives are clear. The Majles and the government have heeded this issue and prevented the abrupt halting of subsidies. This step, which aims to protect the poor and those with low incomes, is being implemented gradually.

In the same way that, yesterday, shortcomings made the government's centralized economy a target for attack, today, the inclination toward a capitalist economy is rejected. There is one path before the world today: Islam.

Foreign Ministry's Inaction Over Hostages Criticized

NC2805132293 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
12 May 93 p 2

[Commentary by Hoseyn Reza'i: "Diplomacy of Negligence"]

[Excerpts] The hostages issue was always among the open arenas of the political confrontation between Tehran and the West and also one of the important channels for the possibility of reestablishing relations with the West. Many believed that the unilateral release of the Western hostages marked a "big political era" in conquering the hearts of the Westerners and was a type of "goodwill message" to the capitals of Europe and the United States.

When this political theory faced the first signs of defeat, it also resulted in victims, among which we can refer to the closed file on the Iranians who are being held hostage in Lebanon, hostages who were among the first victims of the West's international terrorism and were the losers in the hostage game.

The file of the Iranian hostages is now among the "closed files" at the Foreign Ministry and these people not only have no place in Tehran's diplomacy but they have been cast into oblivion.

During the process of releasing the hostages, the Westerners cunningly and victoriously took the hand of their released hostages and left. And in the middle of this, the Iranian hostages became history (!!) The forums that were pursuing the fate of the Iranian, Lebanese, and Palestinian hostages suddenly fell silent. This was at a time when the Westerners were constantly boasting about their "effective diplomacy" and their "propaganda activities" concerning the hostages! The biggest and most important political point in the file of the hostages was the West's success in portraying itself to the world as the oppressed, while the West itself was the

main perpetrator of the hostage-taking crisis through the Zionist regime and through the pro-West terrorist groups in Lebanon. Hundreds of anonymous Palestinian, Lebanese, and other hostages are being held by the Zionist regime now and there are no reports about them in the world mass media. [passage omitted]

Irrespective of the above, the important point is that the Westerners used the most advanced methods of diplomacy in order to forward their most minimal political ends, while we lack any type of planning policy as far as "keeping before the world's eye" our being oppressed and the vindication of our rights. For example, when the United States used "world pressure" to portray as guilty the two Libyans who were accused of downing an American plane and demanded that they be handed over, why did we close the case of the downing of an Iranian passenger plane which led to the martyrdom of dozens of innocent women and children and only ask for a "simple compensation"? Why did we not recognize the perpetrators of this horrific crime who received medals of honor from Bush in an action that was an "official insult" to Iran as if to terrorists? The incident of the Iranian passenger plane was a "clear example" of American brutality which has been put aside. Why are we not reacting seriously to the martyrdom of two outstanding Iranian engineers in the United States and the extraction of their brains from their bodies?

Where do the Foreign Ministry's propaganda policies and propaganda strategies stand? Why are efforts aimed at rendering useless these "living examples" of U.S. world malice?

The problem of the Iranian and Lebanese hostages should be transformed from a "marginal issue" that has been forgotten into a major issue. Why should we not defend our rights in the hostage issue? At a time when the world of Islam is facing the most Western malicious propaganda and political pressures, we should properly vindicate our rights. Do we lack the weapons needed to achieve a final solution for the Iranian hostages in Lebanon? The unilateral and unconditional release of the Western hostages and the neglect of the need for the freedom of the oppressed Iranian hostages will always be considered as a "negative point" in Iranian diplomacy.

Pakistan

National Assembly Gives Sharif Vote of Confidence

BK2705140693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] The National Assembly has given a vote of confidence to the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif; 123 members voted in favor of the resolution of confidence while no one voted against. Five PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] members voted in favor of the resolution. The resolution of vote of confidence was moved by the minister for parliamentary affairs, Chaudhary Amir Hussain. Jamaat-i-Islami members abstained from the voting. Earlier, the house suspended the rules to move the resolution. Announcing the result of the vote, the speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan, congratulated the prime minister on getting the vote of confidence. Details of the session are still coming in.

Earlier, at the parliamentary party meeting, 117 MNA's [members of the National Assembly] expressed their confidence in the leadership of Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. The meeting of the parliamentary party was chaired by the prime minister. The MNA's also included some members from the PDA. The participants of the meeting gave a standing ovation to the prime minister. The parliamentary party thanked Almighty Allah for putting the country back on the road to democracy and progress. The prime minister expressed his gratitude to the nation, which stood by him in this hour of trial.

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif paid rich tribute to the Supreme Court, which gave a historic verdict for the restoration of the National Assembly. He also appreciated the role of the Armed Forces, which pledged to maintain neutrality and honor the verdict of the court. The prime minister said he would welcome all those members of the national or provincial assemblies who had to leave his party because of any reason.

Later, talking to newsmen, the prime minister said the immediate task before him is to put the country back on the road to progress and prosperity and to endeavor to make up the losses in the shortest possible time. Replying to various questions, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said he will try to seek cooperation of all those who want to strengthen democratic process and institutions in the country. He said: Our Constitution needs certain amendments to remove the irritants for the smooth functioning of democracy. About the forthcoming budget, the prime minister said the nation is aware of the difficulties at the moment and would appreciate the situation.

Sharif Comments on Reinstatement as Prime Minister

On Caretaker Government's 'Wrongdoings'

BK2705112993 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 27 May 93 p 8

[By Rana Mubashir]

[Excerpts] Islamabad—Soon after his restoration as the Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif said that those who were in the caretaker government will certainly be brought to book for their wrongdoings. [passage omitted]

Later Nawaz Sharif told journalists that God has honoured him and his friends in the battle of law and constitution. He thanked each and every member of the

nation who strived and prayed for him. He further said that all development projects for the masses will continue.

The premier said that this is for the first time that democracy in the country has been restored in its real shape.

He praised the impartial role of the Pakistan Army during dissolution and restoration of the National Assembly. He said I went to distant places in the country and [word indistinct] the high mandate of masses and the people prayed to Allah for this decision in which I said they succeeded.

He said we are sincere people and believe in fair politics and will work to continue to uphold the sanctity of constitution and law.

He hoped that in future they will work better for the welfare and progress of the people and the development of the country.

Shabbaz Sharif while commenting on the judgement said no one will dare to attempt to sabotage democracy in the future. He said that this verdict has [words indistinct] of uncertainty and fear.

"The Court's verdict has undone the 8th Amendment," Shahbaz added.

He said although there is no need for obtaining a vote of confidence, but if it is demanded then certainly we will obtain it from the National Assembly.

Former chief minister Ghulam Hyder Wyne hinted that after Supreme Court's verdict, soon there will be good news pertaining the provincial assemblies. He [words indistinct] that this decision has earned a good name for Pakistan, and in the comity of nations Pakistan's respect and honour has been restored.

"Those who have remained loyal to us will always be remembered," he added.

After being restored as the PM [prime minister] Nawaz Sharif ordered a check on every broadcast from the electronic media.

In his first order after restoration of the National Assembly, Nawaz Sharif ordered to replace the administration of Islamabad Capital Territory with the one which was operating under him before he was sacked. Thus senior superintendent police Pervaiz Rathore and deputy commissioner Salim Akhrat Kiyani have been ordered to reassume charge immediately.

Shahid Rafi who was removed from the post of managing director PTV has also been reinstated.

Nawaz has also appointed Siddiqul Farooq as his press secretary and Mushahid Hussain as his press advisor.

To Improve Constitution

BK2705162893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said his government will improve the Constitution in order to strengthen democratic institutions and direct the affairs of the country in the right direction. He was speaking at the National Assembly this evening after winning the vote of confidence in the house.

The prime minister thanked all the members for reposing their confidence in him and asked the opposition and political forces to extend full cooperation to his government to salvage the country from the current problems. He thanked God for having retrieved the country from a most serious crisis, which caused colossal losses in the economic and political fields. He said it will take some time to overcome this.

On behalf of the members and on his own behalf, Nawaz Sharif applauded and thanked the Supreme Court for giving a historic verdict. The prime minister said the judgment of the court will be written in golden letters in history. Nawaz Sharif said democracy has struck firm roots in the country and this historic verdict will, once and for all, put an end to the adoption of undemocratic tricks by anyone in the future. He said the Supreme Court verdict is a triumph of justice over unfairness and truth over falsehood. He thanked the people of Pakistan, who extended their full support in his struggle for the restoration of democracy. He said that in the past the people of Pakistan had not expressed their reaction to an ordinary prime minister as they have done now. He said it reflects their attachment to and love for democracy, the country, and democratic institutions.

The house will now meet at 1800 [1300 GMT] on 7 June.

To Outline Government Priorities

BK2805030293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif is addressing the nation over radio and television network at 1930 [1430 GMT] this evening. Talking to newsmen on his arrival in Lahore from Islamabad last night, the prime minister said the during his address to the nation he will put forward his government's priorities and programs. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the government and the opposition are the essential elements of the democratic system and they should have a working relationship. He added that the government will not be found lacking in establishing a working relationship with the opposition. The prime minister said contacts with the opposition leader are not a difficult task and the opposition's absence from yesterday's National Assembly session will not make any difference in this connection.

The prime minister commended the role played by the national press during the dismissal of himself and the

National Assembly. He said the National Assembly played a constructive role during this period and very well reflected the people's wishes and aspirations.

Earlier, the prime minister was given a warm welcome on his arrival in Lahore from Islamabad after receiving a vote of confidence in the National Assembly. The prime minister also attended a reception in Islamabad hosted by National Assembly Speeaker Gauhar Ayub Khan. Talking informally to newsmen on the occasion, the prime minister said there is no political crisis in the country. On the contrary, there is an atmosphere of joy and satisfaction.

Opposition To Continue Fight Against Sharif Government

BK2805110793 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 28 May 93 pp 1, 6

[Text] Islamabad—PPP [Pakistan People's Party] co-chair person Benazir Bhutto viewed that had complete dissolution package been endorsed the situation today would have completely different.

Talking to newsman in Sindh house here Thursday [27 May] after the joint meeting of PML(C) [Peoples Muslim League (Chatha]) and PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] legislators, Benazir Bhutto in a mild tone said the way things were handled gave a weak impression. "Merely the plan to hold elections for the National Assembly without dissolving the provincial assemblies gave impression that it was a musical chair game," she opined and instead of blaming any one took collective responsibility for that.

Earlier PDA and PML(C) MNAs [Members of National Assembly] decided to boycott the National Assembly session and remained busy in their deliberations both at Sindh house and the residence of Benazir Bhutto. Mian Zahid Safraz was the sole voice to plead in favour of attending the session but the rest of the majority decided otherwise. They termed their absence as a gesture of protest on the continuation of what they called the country's most undemocratic and corrupt government.

After their joint meeting a statement was issued which was read by Hussain Haqqani. The statement said "it is bad luck for Pakistan that history's most undemocratic, incompetent and ignorant of national crisis government [words indistinct] violators of the constitution will continue to play with the fate of the country."

"Considering public exchequer their personal property the present rulers will continue commercialising politics. Thus the constitution and people's sovereignty will remain ignored concepts," the statement added.

It is our firm faith that as long as Nawaz Sharif is in power neither democracy can work nor the country's security is ensured. His past practices of endangering the existence of the federation can't be white washed. People of Pakistan will totally reject all such masures. Keeping in view all these aspects we (PDA) and PML(C) would continue our collective political struggle.

Whatsoever is the verdict of law, the people have not been empowered to give their verdict. "We believe that people's verdict will be against the present ruling clique," they hoped. They emphasised that their absence from Thursday's session of National Assembly was aimed at accelerating struggle for people's say in shaping their fate and destiny. The statement envisioned holding of fresh, free and fair elections as the sole remedy to end the prevailing crisis.

Later, Benazir Bhutto, Mir Balaid, Sher Mazari and Hamid Nasir Chattha responded to the queries of newsmen. Benazir Bhutto used the term 'combined opposition' [words indistinct] NDA [National Democracy Alliance] co-ordination and focused on evolving united stand on issues of immediate concern.

About the fate of resignations tendered in the wake of last April political developments she thrice repeated, "ask the speaker about that". However, Mir Balakh Sher Mazari maintained that he was still MNA.

Bhutto also said "we are political people and never close the doors of purposeful dialogue."

"But the press statements never initiate such process", she responded when asked about the chances of dialogue with the government.

The leaders of the combined opposition emphasised that they don't want to create any gap and can't surrender available options. [Words indistinct] were still engaged in consultation, they added.

Bhutto made it clear that the nation must realise that the Supreme Court verdict has not given certificate to the government regarding its representative character. "It is the product of [word indistinct] rigged elections," she repeated her stand. However Hamid Nasir Chattha said, "we have still to debate this aspect" and reiterated his stand to bring a no-confidence move against Nawaz.

Mir Balakh Sher Mazari confessed that the caretakers strategy pertaining to the accountability backfired. "I don't know whether the law ministry received any proper case, however, I didn't", he informed (?the assembly.) Bhutto [words indistinct] the approach of taking vital decisions from the forum of the interim set-up.

Bhutto said, our parliamentary group was cooperating with Punjab chief minister, Manzoor Wattoo and talks with Mir Arzal Khan were in the process. However, she ruled out the chances of cooperation with the Sindh chief ministers. She also hinted about an electoral alliance with PML(C) in future elections. "It is our victory that our allies are increasing and we will approach the people as they are the real power," she claimed.

PPI adds: The combined opposition consisting PDA, NDA, IJM [Islami Jamhoori Mahaz] and Muslim

Leaque (Chattha group) has decided not to resign [words indistinct] relaunch its struggle against the government of Nawaz Sharif.

Bhutto said that the opposition do not want to create vacuum by tendering resignations inside or outside the parliament. She said that the combined opposition has also decided to relaunch a protest campaign against the government to force it to hold free, fair and impartial elections in the country."

When asked whether the PDA will support the motion of impeachment if it moved in the National Assembly against the president she replied "there is no such move on the card."

Bhutto Says Dialogue Depends on Government's 'Sincerity'

BK2805035393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Benazir Bhutto, cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party, has said that the People's Democratic Alliance's doors are open for talks with the government. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad yesterday, she said, however, the prospects of a dialogue depend on the government's sincerity. Answering a question about the Supreme Court's verdict on the restoration of the National Assembly, she said the Supreme Court has given its verdict, but the people are yet to give theirs. When asked whether the opposition is contacting other provincial governments to get support, Benazir Bhutto said talks are being held with the Northwest Frontier Province government, but no cooperation is being extended by the Sindh government.

Demands New Elections

BK2805001893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1704 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Islamabad, May 27 (AFP)—Former premier Benazir Bhutto said Thursday [27 May] the combined Pakistani opposition would wage a political struggle against the government in order to force new elections.

"The political crisis can be resolved only by holding elections," she told a news conference after a meeting of opposition groups, as the restored National Assembly gave reinstated Premier Nawaz Sharif a vote of confidence.

In an implicit reference to Wednesday's Supreme Court decision reinstating the assembly and Sharif, Bhutto said: "Whatever the legal decision, the people must get a chance to give their verdict."

Some 123 deputies out of a total strength of 204 passed a motion of confidence at a session boycotted by deputies belonging to Bhutto's People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) and other opposition groups.

Bhutto, who had supported President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's April 18 dissolution of the assembly and dismissal of Sharif, said the opposition stayed away from the session "in protest."

Speaking to reporters after the confidence vote, Sharif said the opposition "cannot succeed" as he "enjoyed" the nation's support.

Earlier Sharif renewed his appeal to the opposition to cooperate with him to strengthen democracy in the country.

Bhutto is expected to outline opposition strategy in detail at a public meeting in nearby Rawalpindi on Friday.

Asked whether the opposition would be willing to hold talks with the government, Bhutto said "we have not closed doors for dialogue."

To Quit Foreign Affairs Committee Post

BK2805104993 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 28 May 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—PPP [Pakistan People's Party] co-chairperson, Benazir Bhutto announced to quit as the chairperson of the national assembly's foreign affairs committee here Thursday.

In a joint press conference of PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] and PML(C) [Pakistan Muslim League (Chatha)] leaders she for the first time semed quite demoralised in the wake of recent developments. Though not in a loud tone but she hinted as she was also seriously thinking about the future of her politics. [sentence as published]

She reiterated that she always thought that people were the actual power. "So we will consulting them at a public rally today (Friday) at Liaquat Bagh", she remarked.

Restoration of Assembly, Government Welcomed

BK2805040093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif met with National Assembly Speaker Gauhar Ayub Khan in his assembly chamber yesterday. The prime minister paid glowing tributes to Gauhar Ayub Khan for his role in connection with the restoration of the National Assembly.

A large number of people from various walks of life called on the prime minister in Islamabad yesterday and congratulated him on the restoration of the National Assembly and his government. The people included traders from all over the country, yellow cab drivers, and women's delegations. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif thanked them and commended their support and help in the restoration of democracy in the country and said they should pray for the country's prosperity and progress.

The restoration of the National Assembly and Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's government by the Supreme Court continues to be welcomed both at home and abroad. People belonging to all walks of life in their statements said that the verdict will prove to be a milestone in the country's political history because it has restored the supremacy of the Constitution which will strengthen democracy in the country. They said the people's faith in the judiciary and democratic institutions has been restored. Among those who welcomed the verdict are Federal Minister Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilour, Ministers of State Raja Nadir Parvez and Peter John Sahotara, Pakistan National Party parliamentary party leader Syed Ahsan Shah, prominent politician Sardar Shaukat Hayat Khan, the Multan Chambers of Commerce and Industry president, the Hyderabad District Bar Association president, and the Council of Textile Associations and Pakistan National Workers Federation secretary general.

Meanwhile, share transactions at the Islamabad Stock Exchange have increased. Over 124,700 shares were transacted 17 May, while 89,800 shares were transacted 26 May.

Congratulations From Bangladesh Premier

BK2805045093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in a message congratulated Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif on the restoration of the National Assembly and the elected democratic government. She said the Supreme Court's verdict has restored the supremacy of democracy and rule of the law in Pakistan.

Acceptance of Verdict Stressed

BK2705143993 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 27 May 93 p 4

[Editorial: "The Supreme Court Decision—Restoration of the National Assembly"]

[Text] The Supreme Court has restored the National Assembly. Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the dissolution of the National Assembly by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on 18 April. The immediate outcome of the Supreme Court decision is that it rid the whole nation of the nerve-wracking political climate. The decision has also ended the legal battle. [Words indistinct] Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has been restored as the prime minister and the National Assembly reinstated as a result of this decision. It is not possible to predict anything at the moment, either how he will begin implementing this court decision or what posture the front confronting him will adopt. It is not possible to say anything about them now. The constitutional position right now is that: 1. the caretaker government has been abolished; 2. some of the steps taken by the caretaker government will stand null and void; and 3. the justification of various political, administrative, and economic steps taken by the caretaker government will be ascertained and their legal and constitutional status is yet to be determined.

Although the political consequences of the court decision will become visible immediately, it is not possible to foresee its economic and financial repercussions. We will have to wait for the opinions of economic experts and the future action of the restored government. The caretaker government was supposed to present the federal budget on 10 June. The Nawaz Sharif government is not likely to be able to do so. The observation of some political observers cannot be rejected outright that the National Assembly speaker [words indistinct]. The speaker's ruling has also been restored with the restoration of the National Assembly. And it is quite possible that the speaker will convene a session of the National Assembly by the time these sentences appear in the newspaper, as Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif had already called his supporting members of the National Assembly to Islamabad in view of the possibility of reinstatement of the National Assembly by the Supreme Court.

The constitutional position inside the National Assembly is that the house is left with 204 seats after deducting the 13 seats of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement from the total 217 seats. Therefore, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif will need the support of 103 members to win a vote of confidence in the house. It is not possible to predict now whether he himself will take such a step. Most probably, he will avoid doing so at the moment unless he is fully confident of victory or the president asks him to do so. It remains to be seen also how far the constituents of the caretaker government which included People's Democratic Alliance, National Democratic Alliance, Muslim League-Junejo Group, and some other political parties are capable of maintaining their integrity. Only time will tell how far they maintain this integrity.

Now that the government of Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has been restored by the Supreme Court, people can rightly hope that all political parties will gladly accept the court's decision and that the feelings of any opponent group will not be hurt while celebrating the victory. It is the responsibility of all political parties to ensure that no faction engages itself in activities which creates a law and order problem and leads to an impression that the Supreme Court's decision has set off an unfavorable reaction.

Verdict To Promote Stability

BK2805105193 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 28 May 93 p 6

[Editorial: "An Epochal Decision"]

[Text] In a near unanimous decision, the Supreme Court has ordered that the National Assembly which was

dissolved on April 18 stands restored, together with the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, and is entitled to function as immediately before that date. In its short order announced on Wednesday, the Supreme Court has also provided validity and legal cover to all acts and measures taken by the Caretaker Government which were required to be done or taken in accordance with the terms of the Constitution for the orderly running of the State. A review petition submitted agaisnt the Court order was rejected. The verdict of the Supreme Court has been hailed throughout the country by every section of the society.

With the announcement of the Supreme Court decison the shadow of uncertainty which hung over the country during the past few weeks has been lifted and the nation is vibrating with fresh hopes for the future. There has been hectic activity at the stock exchanges and the foreign investors have warmly appreciated the decision. The Court's verdict is historic in every respect and a watershed mark in the country's political history. It is a giant leap forward over the Supreme Court's previous judgements in similar cases. There have been instances in the past when relief was not found when sought from the judiciary. In the present case the Supreme Court has meticulously upheld law and the Constitution thereby strengthening people's faith in our judiciary which has always been held in high respect by them. In a democracy the judiciary's role is crucial in upholding the rule of law and helping the political process forward. It has the authority to review executive decisions to see that they are in accordance with the law and norms of democracy. The decison will undoubtedly contribute to political continuity and promote stability in the coutry by acting as a check on authoritiarian tendencies which have harmed democracy in the past and prevented it from taking firm roots in Pakistan even after the lapse of more than four decades of independence. May 26 will always be remembered for the historic verdict of the Supreme Court of Pakistan which signifies a victory for the Constitution and the democratic process. It augurs well for the future of democracy in Pakistan. The decision has not only enhanced people's confidence in the judicial process but also created new hope for our nascent democracy.

Troops Offered for Bosnia Peacekeeping Force

BK2705163893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] The Islamic countries are considering joining UN peacekeeping operation in Bosnia-Hercegovina to protect the Muslim civilians. Pakistan has already offered its troops, whereas Bangladesh, Tunisia, Malaysia, Morocco, and Indonesia could be the possible contributors if the UN Security Council adopted resolution on the issue. The resolution initiated by France called for wide authority for peacekeepers to use force, including air power to defend safe areas for Bosnian Muslims.

Chinese-Built Aircraft Gives Demonstration

BK2705145693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] The Chinese-built Y-12 aircraft gave a demonstration at the Air Force base in Chaklala today. The aircraft has been manufactured by Chinese Aerotechnical Corporation. Y-12 has a short distance take-off and landing capability and single engine performance. It can be used for cargo transportation, airdropping, forest seeding, and geological survey. The demonstration was witnessed by PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] Chairman Mr. Anwar Tahir, Ambassador of China Mr. Zhou Gang, and other high officials of Ministry of Defense and the Pakistan Air Force, Navy, and Army.

Sri Lanka

Air Force Bombs Tamil Rebel Positions

BK2705152393 Hong Kong AFP in English 1510 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 27 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Air Force Thursday [27 May] carried out strikes against Tamil guerrilla positions in a northern area where the rebels had earlier clashed with members of a rival group, officials said here.

Air force aircraft struck Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrilla positions on the outskirts of government-controlled Vavuniya town, a military spokesman said without giving details.

However a local official in Vavuniya said that the planes had bombed an area where LTTE rebels had ambushed and killed three cadres of the rival Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) on Tuesday.

The TELO is assisting the military in the fight against the Tigers who are seeking to set up a separate state in the country's northeast for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils. Thousands have been killed in the Tamil independence struggle.

Military Continuing Drive

BK2805115493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Brigadier Nalin Angamana has said that the military is continuing its drive against terrorists without any setback. Our aim is to militarily weaken the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], the JOC [Joint Operations

Command] spokesman said in response to a query as to why there was a lull in operation. Four people, including two LTTE terrorists, were killed on Wednesday [26 May] in a confrontation between the Tigers and TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] in (Kompanadu) in Vavuniya. The other two killed were TELO cadres whose bodies have been taken away by the LTTE, military sources said. They added that troops rushed to the scene to help the TELO soon after they heard the terrorist assault. TELO is collaborating with the government in disarming the LTTE.

15 LTTE 'Terrorists' Killed by Security Forces

BK2705120493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] Fifteen LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists have been killed by the security forces during the last week in the north and east. Spokesman for the Joint Operations Command, Brigadier Nalin Angammana, told newsmen yesterday that the security forces lost just one soldier during the same period. Five soldiers were wounded in the Weli Oya area.